

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Stiller emerges  
as box-office  
powerhouse**

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Actor  
Ben Stiller

**Batman joins  
ranks of Iraq's  
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**'Rambo' looks  
out for GIs in  
Afghanistan**

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Afghan Jamal "Rambo" Udin

Volume 2, No. 288 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2005

## Iraqi unit arrests top al-Qaida lieutenant

Detained leader allegedly behind deadly car bombings in Baghdad

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### Pats, Eagles live up to preseason billing

Early favorites to meet in Jacksonville

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AP photos

Above: Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb is greeted by a sidelined Terrell Owens after Dorsey Levens ran for a touchdown in the first quarter against the Falcons in the NFC championship game on Sunday. Left: Patriots coach Bill Belichick is hugged by quarterback Tom Brady after New England advanced to the Super Bowl for the third time in four years with a 41-27 win over the Steelers in the AFC championship.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Rhode Island grants:** The Champlin Foundations recently announced another \$17.9 million in grants to Rhode Island non-profit groups, and some of that money targeted a new need: nonprofits that are overwhelmed by the state's new fire codes, adopted in the aftermath of The Station fire.

July is the deadline for complying with the new code, adopted after the February 2003 fire at the West Warwick nightclub that killed 100 people and injured more than 200 others.

The cost of updating the fire systems has been an issue for many businesses, especially small organizations with limited budgets.

**Snwo delays clergy sex trial:** The winter storm that pounded the Northeast prompted Mass. Gov. Mitt Romney to keep some non-essential state workers home Monday, including employees at the courthouse where a high-profile clergy sex abuse case was to begin.

Romney's announcement meant that opening statements in the trial of defrocked priest Paul Shanley, one of the highest-profile figures to go to trial in the Roman Catholic clergy sex abuse scandal, would not begin in Middlesex Superior Court until Tuesday. A jury was seated last week.



Romney

### Military

**Aircraft lawsuit:** The families of five National Guardsmen killed when their transport plane crashed in Georgia four years ago settled their lawsuit Monday against the aircraft's manufacturers.

The families will receive \$3.75 million from the companies that made and maintained the C-23B+ Shespa cargo plane and its parts: Montreal-based Bombardier Inc. and its subsidiary, plane maker Short Brothers PLC; Duncan Aviation Inc. of Lincoln, Neb.; and Rockwell International of Milwaukee and its former subsidiary Rockwell Collins Inc. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Twenty-one Guardsmen died when the plane crashed near Macon, Ga., on a flight from north Florida to Virginia in March 2001.

### World

**Vioxx death reports:** A medical journal published a study Tuesday of deaths related to the anti-inflammatory drug Vioxx after withholding the report because the researcher said he had been threatened by superiors at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The Lancet, which originally planned to publish the paper on Nov. 17, released the study online.

David Graham, who works in the FDA's office of drug safety, has said he was firmly discouraged from publishing his data questioning the safety of Vioxx, which was withdrawn from the market in September.

**Microsoft in Europe:** Microsoft Corp. will not appeal an interim European Union ruling forcing it to strip Media Player from its Windows platform, and said the first versions of its flagship operating system without the music and video playing program will arrive at EU retailers in the coming weeks.

Last month, an EU court ruling said Microsoft had to divulge some trade secrets to competitors and produce a version of Windows without the Media Player program. Microsoft said Monday that it would not appeal that ruling and had already taken substantial steps to meet the court's demands.



**Sudan visit:** Families sit outside their basic shelters Thursday in a camp for returnees in Rumbek, in southern Sudan. U.S. lawmakers who met with Darfur rebels in western Sudan and visited camps for Sudanese refugees in Chad over the weekend said they will ask Washington to push for U.N. sanctions against the Sudanese government. The lawmakers will also be asking for a larger African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur as well as expanding its mandate beyond being just a protection force to begin enforcing existing cease-fire agreements, a congressional staff member said on the condition of anonymity. The Sudanese government's counterinsurgency campaign features a mostly Arab militia known as the Janjaweed that has committed widespread abuses. Also Monday, leaders of Sudan's main southern rebel movement unanimously endorsed an agreement to end the civil war, paving the way for a new constitution.

**Kosovo's future:** A senior European Union official said Monday the EU intends to discuss Kosovo's future with President Bush during his February stop in Europe.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn said the organization expects also to discuss the future of the Western Balkans, one of the poorest regions in Europe, which is still recovering from the decadelong ethnic conflicts of the 1990s.

**Kashmir cease-fire:** Pakistan on Monday accused India of violating a cease-fire at the heavily militarized border in disputed Kashmir but maintained that the 14-month truce between the nuclear armed rivals is still in place.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said that senior military officials of the two sides are in "frequent contact," and "both sides have renewed assurances that cease-fire would be observed by Pakistan and India." A cease-fire took effect in November 2003 and is a keystone in a still-fragile peace process aimed at resolving five decades of enmity between the two countries, which have fought three wars since 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

**Austrian church exodus:** A cleric who led a Vatican investigation into the discovery of a large cache of child pornography at a Roman Catholic seminary in Austria says he sees no end in sight to the record number of disillusioned Austrians leaving the church.

Bishop Klaus Kuegel told Austrian television in an interview Sunday night that "for so many, the connection with the church has become thin" following last year's scandal, which stunned predominantly Catholic Austria.

Nearly 45,000 Austrians left the church in 2004, according to statistics released earlier this month.

**Bird flu pandemic:** World Health Organization members struggled Monday to find common ground on how countries should tackle any future influenza pandemic, especially a potential human variant of deadly bird flu.

A session of the 32-nation WHO executive board in Geneva was bogged down on the issue of whether countries hit by a massive outbreak could override patents on anti-flu drugs, and the meeting was halted to let delegates call their governments for guidance.

**Al-Qaida suspects:** Two alleged al-Qaida members accused of plotting an attack in Iraq went before a federal judge Monday in Frankfurt, Germany, and could face up to 10 years in jail if found guilty of belonging to a terrorist organization.

The men were arrested Sunday in the western cities of Mainz and Bonn. At a closed-door session in the southern city of Karlsruhe, a judge was determining whether there was sufficient evidence to order them held pending charges.

### War on terrorism

**British detainees at Gitmo:** British Muslim leaders lobbied the government Monday to give medical treatment and counseling to four Britons expected to return home this week from the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they were held for more than three years.

The Muslim Council of Britain said the four, some of whom claim they were tortured, would be heavily traumatized and in need of care.

**Kidnapped journalist:** The director of the French newspaper Liberation said Monday he suspects that one of his reporters missing for nearly three weeks in Iraq has been kidnapped for ransom, although there was still no word on her fate.

The newspaper's Florence Aubenas and her Iraqi translator, Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi, were last seen leaving her Baghdad hotel on Jan. 5.

About 40 editorial chiefs from major French media and international media organizations with offices in Paris met at Liberation's Paris headquarters Monday to discuss coverage of Iraq in the wake of Aubenas' disappearance.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Iraqi forces arrest al-Zarqawi's top aide

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces have arrested the "most lethal" top lieutenant of al-Qaida's leader in Iraq — a man allegedly behind most of the car bombings in Baghdad since the U.S.-led invasion, including the 2003 assault on U.N. headquarters that killed 22 people, the prime minister's office said Monday.

Sami Mohammed Ali Said al-Jaaf, also known as Abu Omar al-Kurdi, was arrested on Jan. 15 in Baghdad, a government statement said Monday. Two other militants linked to Jordanian-born

## Suspect allegedly responsible for most of the Baghdad car bombings since invasion

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's terror group also were arrested, authorities announced Monday.

Al-Zarqawi heads al-Qaida in Iraq, the terror network's local affiliate. The group is behind many of the car bombings, beheadings, assassinations and other attacks driving the insurgency in Iraq.

The suspect was linked to the August 2003 bombing of U.N. headquarters in

Baghdad, which killed the top U.N. envoy in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 21 others. The U.N. attack was "planned and directed by two others affiliated with Abu Omar," the statement said.

Al-Jaaf was responsible for 32 car bombing attacks that killed hundreds of Iraqis, the statement said. Al-Jaaf "confessed to building approximately 75 percent of the car bombs used in attacks in Baghdad

since March 2003," said Thaeir al-Naqib, spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Abu Omar al-Kurdi claims responsibility for some of the most ruthless attacks on Iraqi police forces and police stations," al-Naqib said.

The suspect built the car bomb used to attack a shrine in the Shiite holy city of Najaf that killed more than 85 people, including Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, in August 2003.

He also assembled the car bomb used to assassinate Izzaddin Saleem, president of the now-defunct Iraqi Governing Council in May, the statement said.

# Suicide car bomber strikes outside Allawi HQ in Iraq

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide driver detonated a car bomb outside the prime minister's party headquarters in Baghdad, injuring 10 people in a blast claimed by the al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq.

The suicide bomber struck at a police checkpoint on the road leading to Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's Iraqi National Accord offices in central Baghdad, shaking the city center with a thunderous explosion. The wounded included eight policemen and two civilians, said Dr. Mudhar Abdul-Hussien of Yarmouk Hospital.

Al-Qaida's wing in Iraq said in a Web posting that "one of the young lions in the suicide regiment" carried out the attack against the party office of Allawi, "the agent of the Jews and the Christians."

The attacks occurred six days before Iraq's crucial national elections, the first since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Insurgents have condemned the elections and vowed to disrupt them.

In an audiotape posted Sunday on the Web, a speaker claiming to be Abu Musab al-Zarqawi declared "fiere war" on democracy and said anyone who takes part in next weekend's Iraqi elections would be considered "an infidel."

"We have declared a fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology," the speaker said. "Anyone who tries to help set up this system is part of it."

The speaker warned Iraqis to be careful of "the enemy's plan to implement so-called democracy in your country." He said the Americans have engineered the election to install Shiite Muslims in power. Al-Zarqawi, who is a Sunni Arab like most of the insurgents here, has in the past branded Shiites as heretics.

The authenticity of the tape could not immediately be verified.

The Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi heads al-Qaida in Iraq, the terror network's local affiliate. The group is behind many of the car bombings, beheadings, assassinations and other attacks driving the insurgency in Iraq.

The United States has offered a



A banner advertising an amusement park is seen in front of Iraqi police securing the area following a car bomb explosion Monday in Baghdad. The suicide car bomber struck near Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's party headquarters, injuring at least 10 people, police and hospital officials said.

\$25 million reward for al-Zarqawi's capture or death — the same amount as for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

In the election, voters are to choose a 275-member National Assembly and legislatures in each of the 18 provinces. Voters in the Kurdish-ruled area of the north will also elect a new regional parliament.

American and Iraqi officials have warned they expect rebels to unleash bloodshed and mayhem to keep voters from the polls in what supporters are advertising as the first free election in this country since the overthrow of Iraq's monarchy in 1958.

In other election news, an Arab political faction has pulled out of this weekend's general elections because Kurds deported by Saddam Hussein from Kirkuk were given the right to vote in the city, the leader of the group said Monday.

Wasfi Assi Hassan al-Obaidi said his 24-member United Arab Front decided to withdraw because "we are not happy about allowing deported Kurds to register and vote in Kirkuk."

Kurdish political leaders had initially threatened a boycott of the vote, but decided earlier this

month to participate after authorities met their demands to allow displaced Kurds to return and cast ballots in the city.

Some Kurds have called for Kirkuk to be made part of the autonomous Kurdistan, a Switzerland-sized area of northern Iraq where Kurds have ruled themselves since the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

In Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai urged Iraqis to follow the example of Afghan citizens in turning out for landmark elections despite the threat of violence, saying their votes would help their country toward prosperity.

"The Iraqi people must not fear terrorists. Instead, they should make their elections a success with bravery and courage... they must endeavor to ensure the rule of democracy and the right to elect their leader," Karzai said in a statement.

The U.S.-backed Afghan leader won Afghanistan's first ever direct vote for president on Oct. 9, almost three years after American forces ousted the Taliban for harboring Osama bin Laden.

Violence continues in Iraq, with three U.S. soldiers were wounded Sunday in a mortar attack in Samarra north of Bag-

dad, including one seriously, the U.S. command said.

On Sunday night, insurgents blew up three schools to be used as polling centers in Tikrit.

Gunmen firing from a speeding car shot dead an Iraqi police lieutenant as he was returning home Sunday night in Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said. North of the capital, the deputy governor of Iraq's Diyala province, Ghassan al-Khadran, escaped an assassination attempt Monday morning as a roadside bomb struck his car.

On Monday, mortar rounds slammed into an Iraqi National Guard camp near Baghdad International Airport as the rumble of distant explosions reverberated through the capital. There was no report of casualties in the mortar attack.

Monday's blast in Baghdad rattled buildings along the Tigris River in the center of the city and sent black smoke rising above the skyline. U.S. military helicopters cut through overcast skies above the scene.

Police fired on the car as it sped toward them, killing the driver as the blast ripped the vehicle apart, said an Interior Ministry official.

Splintered police vehicles were

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,372 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 1,077 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,234 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes nearly 968 deaths, resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

A U.S. soldier was killed Saturday on a security patrol in Mosul, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by military:

ed. No identifications reported.

engulfed in flames, and gunfire rattled after the explosion.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi lawyer on Saddam Hussein's defense team has received several death threats in the last three weeks and has gone into hiding, the chief defense attorney for the deposed Iraqi leader said Monday.

Khalil al-Duleimi, one of 25 attorneys representing Saddam, told other lawyers on the team that the threats followed his Dec. 16 meeting with the ousted Iraqi leader, according to chief defense attorney Ziad al-Khasasneh.

# General: Iran instability could harm Afghan mission

By STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A senior American commander in Afghanistan said Monday he knew of no U.S. spying missions in Iran and cautioned that instability in Tehran could harm his mission.

The New Yorker magazine last week reported that the U.S. military since last year has been carrying out undercover reconnaissance operations to gather intelligence and targeting information inside Iran.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the operational commander of U.S. forces pursuing Taliban and al-Qaida remnants in Afghanistan,

told The Associated Press he was unaware of any such operations, but he also said they would not come under his control.

Asked if he feared Iran could react to such missions — or even the perception that they had taken place — by trying to create problems in Afghanistan, Olson said: "I think it is in Afghanistan's interest to see stability in Iran and anything that is destabilizing or causes turmoil in Iran, especially close to the border, would not be good for Afghanistan and would not be good for my mission."

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Seymour Hersh reported in The New Yorker that President Bush's administration had been

"conducting secret reconnaissance missions inside Iran at least since last summer," U.S. Defense Department officials said the article was filled with mistakes but did not deny its basic point.

Bush says his administration will not rule out the possibility of using military force against Iran over its controversial nuclear program. (See related story on Page 14.) Vice President Cheney said Thursday that Iran "is right at the top of the list" of world trouble spots.

Iran's intelligence minister, Ali Yunesi, said Sunday that a U.S. military strike against it would be a strategic blunder, and he brushed aside tough talk from Washing-

ton as psychological warfare rather than a real threat. Iranian officials say no American commandos have entered Iran.

Olson, speaking to an AP reporter after making a presentation to Kabul-based diplomats at the main U.S. base north of Kabul, said the only Iran-related operations run by the 18,000 mainly American soldiers under his command were efforts to intercept spies or militants entering Afghanistan from the west.

Olson told diplomats that Taliban militants had been so weakened by U.S. operations and the advances of Hamid Karzai's government that his forces would soon spend more time on reconstruction than pursuing militants.

## 'Rambo' helps keep U.S. base in Kabul secure

### Tough Afghan guards Camp Phoenix gates

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan

A taxi stops near the front gate of Camp Phoenix on the outskirts of Kabul. Within seconds a short, stocky man wielding a pipe starts to approach the vehicle. The man with the lead stick means business.

"Move the car," he demands in a language anyone could understand. "Move the car. Now!"

The occupant hastily pays his fare, and the taxi driver wastes no time backing away.

With the way clear, the Afghan man U.S. soldiers call "Rambo" returns to his post just inside the gate to resume his vigil.

A person would be hard pressed to find anyone in the camp who doesn't know or hasn't heard of Rambo, so named by troops in the 10th Mountain Division.

"He's definitely a legend on this camp," Sgt. Michael Sweet said.

While Sweet, an Indiana National Guardsman, is a shift sergeant, it's abundantly clear that Rambo is the primary gatekeeper.

In June 2003, when U.S. forces first rolled up to the front gate of what was then a Russian-Afghan transport company, Rambo was waiting. He hasn't left.

Stories of Rambo permeate the base. Some are factual. Others are not.

"This is my hooch," he says through an interpreter as he opens the door to a small, cramped room immediately off the front gate.

His real name is Jamal Udin, born in Kabul "maybe 41 years ago," he said, to parents who moved to the capital from northern Afghanistan.

For many Afghans, details such as years and dates aren't all that critical.

As a teen, he said, he served as a conscript in the Afghan army, which, at the time, was under the thumb of the Russians.

After military service, Udin got a truck-driving job with the transport company. His trips took him



PHOTOS BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** Jamal Udin, known as "Rambo" to U.S. troops in Kabul, Afghanistan, snaps a salute to a military vehicle entering Camp Phoenix, east of the capital. Udin has stood watch at the front gate for more than two years. He carries a lead pipe to ward off danger and salutes every military vehicle heading off or on base. **Right:** U.S. troops said "Rambo" has been a huge help patrolling the front gate and keeping the base safe.

all over the region: Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

It was during this time that he married his wife, Shagull, who was a couple of years younger than he was. By Afghan standards, Udin had a good life. He had a steady job, an apartment, six children and a wife he adored.

The turning point for Udin, he said, came several years ago when a rocket-propelled grenade apparently fired by a Taliban soldier slammed into his apartment, killing his wife.

Udin remembers the time of day — 10 or 11 a.m. — but not the year. The Taliban captured Kabul in September 1996, but were beating back counterattacks for sometime afterward, so it could've been 1997.

"We loved each other," Udin said of his wife, "which is why I will never remarry."

Udin took his brood — four sons and two daughters — to Pakistan, where Shagull has family. They remained there for about four years.

While I was in Pakistan, I saw President Bush and his wife on TV," Udin said. "They said: 'We will help Afghanistan. We will re-

build Afghanistan.' That's why I like Americans, and why I like to work for them."

That commitment to his country prompted him to return to Kabul. Because Udin had sold his apartment, the only logical place to go, he figured, was his old workplace. His bosses didn't have a driver's job open, so they assigned him to the front gate — and he's been there ever since.

"He takes a lot of work off of our hands," said Spc. David Young, who, like Sweet, is with Company C, 151st Infantry Battalion.

Udin has an incredible capacity to remember faces, Sweet said. He always knows who belongs on base and who doesn't. If a stranger approaches, the man they call Rambo steps forward first to sort things out. And his lead pipe, wrapped in red tape, rarely leaves his hand, sending a subtle but convincing message not to cross him.

The guy is dependable, too. Udin typically works from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., every night. Last year, he can recall taking only two days off. Every fourth or fifth night, he'll visit his brother's house to see his daughter Zarnina, who is now 10.

While Udin frets about his daughter, the troops worry about him.

Udin's room is filled with gifts from well-meaning, young Americans. A general's driver from the previous rotation gave him a TV, a sergeant from the Indiana Guard bought him a space heater, and another current occupant of the base, a female soldier, presented him with a blanket, gloves and a black wool hat with the name "Rambo" stitched across it.

And that's only scratching the surface. There are several 12-pack soda boxes, instant soup, snacks, sunglasses and even a bottle of bubbles, the type that kids like to play with. Udin also has his own camouflage uniform.

"They are always taking care of me," he said. The attention, he added, "makes me work harder and harder for them."

For months after the Americans arrived, Udin refused to accept money. His company was already paying him, and he saw no reason to double dip. When his company quit paying him, he accepted the Americans' offer. Today, his monthly salary is \$420, plus meals.

"Have a good day, Rambo," Spc. David A. Pranger said after he delivered lunch to Udin.



"He's not really military, but we bring him breakfast, lunch and dinner," Pranger added. "He's a cool guy. He's always here to greet us."

Indeed, whenever a military vehicle — U.S. or coalition — enters or leaves the compound, the occupants inside get saluted.

Udin patrols the area outside the gate with a vengeance because the area tends to attract looters looking for work or handouts. The compound is also situated along a busy street.

Terrorists, he explained, "might attack the front gate with a car bomb."

A couple of months ago, an Afghan fired on a French military vehicle.

Udin sprang into action immediately and charged the armed man. He was able to disarm him, the French shot the man themselves.

"I'm not scared," Udin said. "I feel like I am in the Army, so if I die, no problem."

"Rambo is one of the most honest, genuine persons I have ever met," Sweet said. "He's worth every penny they pay him. He never complains."

Udin hopes to soon get an apartment so he can move his five children back home. The pay he receives from the Army has helped him immeasurably, but he states he has no intention of abandoning his post any time soon.

"Whenever the Americans leave, I will leave," he said. "As long as they want me to stay, I will stay."

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# Shiite Muslims say they don't seek to establish an Islamic state in Iraq

By BASSEM MROUE  
The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — Leaders of the mostly Shiite Muslim ticket said Monday they have no intention of establishing an Iranian-style Islamic state in Iraq if they sweep next weekend's national elections.

They also vowed not to be dragged into a civil war by retaliating against Sunni extremist attacks on the Shiite community but called Sunni clerics to condemn violence.

The comments were made by top figures of the 228-member United Iraqi Alliance list, which is backed by the country's top Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. The ticket is widely expected to fare best in Sunday's elections which many Sunni Arabs are expected to boycott.

The list is headed by a cleric, Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the country's largest political group. Nevertheless, key figures on the list told reporters they do not foresee clerical rule in Iraq.

"No," insisted Education Minister Sami Moudafar when asked about clerical rule. "I don't think so."

He noted that the list includes secular-minded candidates and "each individual on the list has his own ideas which differ from the others."

Human Hamoudi, a senior SCIRI official and a cleric, said the list has many members, including some of the top 10, who



Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim

are liberal secularists who do not believe in mixing Islam and politics.

"Had this been our intention we wouldn't have let them join our list," he said.

Hanin Mohammed Qaddou, a Sunni Muslim from the northern city of Mosul who is running on the list, said the issue "of a religious government was not part of the (list's) program and it will not be in the near future."

As the elections draw near, attacks on Shiite Muslims have increased in what appears to be an attempt by Sunni Arab insurgents to scare Shiites from voting. On Friday, a Shiite mosque was targeted with a car bomb, killing 14 and wounding 40. Later that day, a suicide attacker driving an ambulance detonated his vehicle at a

Shiite wedding south of Baghdad. At least seven people died.

Still, Shiite candidates said they would not respond to the attacks in kind.

"We believe that we have no justifications, whether religious or political, to escalate the situation and enter into the civil war quagmire because it means the Balkanization of Iraq or the Lebanonization of Iraq," said Khudayer al-Khuzai of the Islamic Dawa Party-Iraq.

"Continuing to be patient is better for us, for Iraq and for Iraqis than entering a civil war that will be destructive," he said.

In an audiotape posted Sunday on an Internet Web site, a speaker claiming to be Iraq's most feared militant, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said the Americans have engineered the election to install Shiite Muslims in power. Al-Zarqawi, who is a Sunni Arab like most of the insurgents here, has in the past branded Shiites as heretics.

Asked about al-Zarqawi's statement, Hamoudi, the SCIRI official, said "al-Zarqawi is not worth a response because he is a terrorist who kills innocent people and is proud of killing innocent civilians."

Hamoudi urged Sunni religious scholars and Iraqi and Arab Sunni personalities to speak out against violent acts by insurgents.

"They should not be silent because their silence encourages sectarian sedition," he said. "What is needed from us is patience and what is needed from them is a clear stance in condemning these operations and declaring them un-Islamic."

## REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Stars and Stripes



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Senior Airman Joe Batman of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron stands next to his small locker at Camp Liberty.

## Batman deployed to Camp Liberty

Stars and Stripes

**G**otham City is not the only place with a Batman in its ranks.

Baghdad's Camp Liberty has its own — in this case Senior Airman Joe Batman of the 732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron detachment.

"It's a German name," he explained. "It is, from what I'm told, a German officer's servant."

Whatever its origin, it has drawn a lot of attention to the 25-year-old Dolphin, Va., native.

Batman deployed to Iraq from Alaska's Elmendorf Air Force Base about two months ago and expects to be in country until mid-2005.

"We thought it was a joke," said Senior Airman Hugo Vitela, about Batman's pending arrival a few months ago. "We were like 'Batman? Who the hell is Batman?'"

His Air Force brethren quickly got used to him — although he still does get a little ribbing from them. When he enters the Tactical Operations Center in their corner of the camp, other Air Force personnel always do the song: "duh-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh" — well, you know the rest.

Since the Air Force is greatly outnumbered by Army personnel on the camp most of the attention comes from soldiers, Batman said.

"They get really excited," he said. "They do the 'Look, I'm Batman' thing."

"They do the little song," Vitela added. "You can hear it in the background when we're walking."

Batman doesn't get upset with the attention drawn by his last name, and has never wished he were "Joe Smith" or something less, well, superhero-like.

"Nah, Batman's too cool," he said.

Though single, he hopes to have children someday and pass on the Batman name.

But there are some names that

are definitely out for the future kids.

"No Brucers or Robins," he explained.

Though he's probably the only Batman in Baghdad, he's not the only one in the military. His brother, Petty Officer 3rd Class Ira Batman, is assigned as a mineman at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, near Corpus Christi.

### Melancholy magic

Every seat on the bus from the post exchange to the northern part of Camp Liberty was full as it turned toward one of the camp's living areas.

Tunes were blaring, as they do every night in the "Wayne's World" bus, so named because of a piece of paper stuck in the window underneath the bus route sign.

Soldiers new to Iraq talked with the old hands, a couple of whom said they were counting the days until their combat tours were over. Everyone seemed in a pretty good mood as the final few notes of Elton John's "Candle in the Wind" ended.

As the bus pulled into the living area, the first notes of the next song came on.

"Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away," crooned Paul McCartney. "Now it looks as though they're here to stay. Oh, I believe in yesterday."

Conversation came to a standstill.

"Suddenly, I'm not half the man I used to be."

"There's a shadow hanging over me."

"Wayne's World," it seemed, had just gotten a lot smaller and much more personal.

One newly arrived officer wryly commented that he hoped none of the soldiers would start crying.

It wasn't said in jest.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jason Chudy contributed to this report. He is currently embedded with the 10th Mountain Division in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, and can be reached at: chudyj@mail.istripes.osd.mil

### Heroes one and all



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Melissa Serafini holds a tray of Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medals during Sunday's awards ceremony for the 458th Engineer Battalion. Soldiers from the unit received 22 Purple Hearts; 40 Bronze Star medals, including one for valor; and more than 400 Army Commendation Medals, including 11 for valor. Sgt. 1st Class David Keosler, at left, received an Army Commendation Medal for valor and a Purple Heart. He received the Army Commendation Medal for treating two soldiers wounded by an insurgent's grenade Oct. 16, and was himself wounded by a roadside bomb in November.

# McCain seeks hearing about new spy

BY THOMAS B. EDSALL

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold hearings on a Washington Post report that the Department of Defense is reinterpreting U.S. law to give the secretary broad authority over clandestine operations abroad.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has created a new espionage unit called the Strategic Support Branch, according to the news report, but McCain, speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation" said he doubts Rumsfeld has broken any laws.

"I'm always sorry to read about things in The Washington Post when they affect a committee that I am a member of," McCain said.

Pentagon spokesman Lawrence T. Di Rita Sunday issued a carefully worded statement that appears to dispute parts of the Post article.

"There is no unit that is directly reportable to the secretary of defense for clandestine operations as is described in the Wash-



McCain



Rumsfeld

ington Post," he said. In addition, Di Rita said, "The Department is not attempting to 'bend' statutes to fit desired activities, as is suggested in this article."

At the same time, Di Rita said, "It is accurate and should not be surprising that the Department of Defense is attempting to improve its long-standing human intelligence capability."

Di Rita said the war on terror necessi-

itates "a framework by which military forces and traditional human intelligence work more closely together and in greater numbers than they have in the past. These actions are being taken within existing statutory authorities to support traditional military operations and with any assertion to the contrary is wrong."

The Strategic Support Branch, according to the Post, was designed to expand the Pentagon's use of "human" or human intelligence operations, including the recruitment of spies and investigation of prisoners. The recruited agents could include "notorious figures" whose ties to the United States would be embarrassing if revealed, according to a Pentagon memo.

## CI appears on Time for elections report

BY LESLIE HOFFMAN

The Associated Press

RIO RANCHO, N.M. — Time magazine's special report on Iraq's upcoming elections brings the war closer to home for Carol and Samuel Lujan. The cover captures a stoic image of a young New Mexico soldier — the first glimpse of their son since his deployment to the Middle East last January.

The photo, featured on a special Jan. 31 issue, shows a helmet-clad Pfc. Christopher Lujan and his fellow troops on foot patrol in the streets of Mosul.

Lujan's family is one of many military families waiting — and watching — amid vows by rebels to disrupt balloting in next weekend's vote. U.S. and Iraqi officials fear more attacks in the run-up to Sunday's election and plan massive security measures.

Lujan's parents learned over the weekend that their son would be on the Time cover. The issue was due to hit newsstands Monday.

When Lujan's commander called the soldier's father, he also said Lujan was returning to the states next month. They welcomed the news since Lujan had told his family he likely would not be back until April.

"As a father it makes me feel great that he's leaving," said Samuel Lujan, who had a 21-year career in the Army. "I'm very happy that he's rotating out with the way things are getting now."

And with the elections, I'm sure that it will get even uglier."

In Iraq, Christopher has "been on the move," his mother said, one of the many U.S. soldiers on regular patrols.

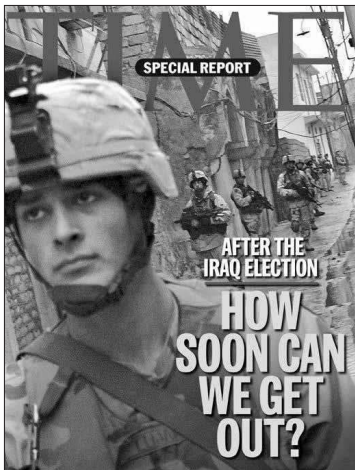
A member of the Army's 25th Infantry Division, Lujan enlisted in December 2002. He dreamed of becoming a pilot and wanted to start a military career as an officer but a slip in his senior year grades prevented that, his mother said.

Mosul is among the areas where troops have stepped up security operations, rounding up hundreds of suspected insurgents. On Saturday, a U.S. soldier was killed on a security patrol there.

It's the kind of news that makes the wait until next month all that more difficult for Lujan's family. "It just brings me to tears every time the topic (of the war) comes up for more than five minutes," Carol Lujan said.

She's hopeful the elections will help clear the way for peace, but "I'm afraid I don't see it as stepping stone because of the increased violence and the suicide bombers," she said.

"I don't believe they want us there ... I am fearful. I can barely stand to watch the television."



In this handout provided by Time magazine, Pfc. Christopher Lujan, of Rio Rancho, N.M., is shown on the cover of the Jan. 31 issue on patrol in Mosul, Iraq. The photo will be Carol and Samuel Lujan's first glimpse of their son since he shipped out for the Middle East last January. Lujan's family is one of the many waiting and watching amid vows by rebels to disrupt balloting in this weekend's election in Iraq.

## British major: Soldiers held in abuse acted outside order

BY TONY CZUCZKA

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — Three British soldiers accused of mistreating detained Iraqi civilians were acting outside an order to put looters to work, their commander testified Monday at their court-martial.

Maj. Dan Taylor testified last week that he gave the order to capture looters "work hard" picking up garbage to deter rampant theft at an aid warehouse outside Basra being guarded by British soldiers in May 2003.

However, he said Monday he did not have the group of soldiers supervised by Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, the highest-ranking defendant, enforcing that plan on the day of the alleged abuse.

Their section "had no part in the work phase," Taylor testified. Taylor has said he saw no abuse during the crackdown.

British media published photos of the abuse last week, causing outrage and expressions of disgust from politicians, including Prime Minister Tony Blair.

One photo shows a bound Iraqi being dangled over a loading dock by a forklift. Others show him and another Iraqi stripped and apparently forced to simulate sexual acts.

Defense lawyers for the three soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers argue that they were following orders, a charge Taylor denied Friday.

One of the defendants, Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, has pleaded guilty to one count of battery after prosecutors alleged he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi on the ground.

Larkin and Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, 25, denied all other charges.

Cooley is charged with tethering the detainee to the forklift and driving it.

Kenyon is charged with several counts of failing to report abuse to superiors. He has pleaded not guilty.

## Few Iraqi expatriates have registered to vote

BY SALAH NASRAWI

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Only 16 percent of eligible Iraqi voters living outside their country have registered for next weekend's elections, the largest turnout so far has been in Iran, organizers said Sunday.

Only 9 percent of the 188,091 Iraqis who had registered as of Saturday were from the United States, while 22 percent were in Iran, an overwhelmingly Shiite Muslim nation.

Shiites also comprise the majority in Iraq and are expected to

fare well in the elections, raising concerns among some Iraqis and Americans that candidates could align themselves with Iran's hard-line theocracy.

The International Organization for Migration, which is coordinating the expatriate vote, has extended the registration deadline by two days until Tuesday.

The reason for the low overall registration remains unclear, but fear of violence or reprisals by Saddam Hussein loyalists may have caused many Iraqis to skip the election, particularly in countries that border Iraq such as Syria and Jordan, where insurgents are suspected of operating.

June Chua, spokeswoman for the Iraq Out-of-Country Voting Program USA, said the process has been slowed by bad weather, the long distances that many Iraqis must travel to get to a polling place and short registration hours, which officials extended by two hours a day last week.

Some Chicago Iraqi expatriates also said they don't plan to vote because they are opposed to the election.

Lath Al-Saud, a social sciences professor at Harold Washington College in Chicago, said he thinks the election is illegal because the interim government that organ-

ized it was appointed by an occupying power.

"There's this sort of general assumption — even among those who plan to vote — that (interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad) Al-Lawi is going to win because he's the U.S.'s guy," Al-Saud said.

Al-Saud added that the thousands of candidates running in the election has left voters confused. "They don't know who is running. They don't know who to vote for," Al-Saud said.

To register, Iraqis have to document their identity, Iraqi nationality and birth on or before Dec. 31, 1996. They must then return to the same location to vote.

## USAF, Navy might disappoint recruits

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — While the Army and the Marine Corps are straining to meet recruiting goals, the Air Force and the Navy may wind up turning away thousands of potential recruits, according to a report in USA Today.

The Air Force told the paper it has a backlog of about 9,000 enlistees who have not yet been called to duty.

It has slashed its 2005 recruiting target from 35,000 to 24,000. Together, the Air Force and Navy say they are planning to reduce the number of recruits by more than 27,000 in 2005, USA Today reported.

In contrast, the Army and the Marine Corps, which are providing the bulk of ground troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, are adding more than 12,000 troops this year.

One of the primary reasons the Air Force and the Navy are so flush with troops and willing recruits, personnel experts say, is that those branches have suffered relatively few casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I think the most obvious explanation is that you're less likely to be killed or wounded in the Navy or Air Force," Richard Kohn, a professor at the University of North Carolina who studies military culture, told the paper.

Of the more than 1,350 U.S. deaths during the Iraq war, 41 have come from the Air Force and the Navy, according to a Defense Department breakdown.

Both the Marines and the Army say they expect to meet their recruiting goals this year but acknowledge it will be difficult, USA Today reported.

# Reserves' numbers a concern

## U.S. military may face shortage of deployable troops

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The strain of fighting a longer, bloodier war in Iraq than U.S. commanders originally foresaw brings forth a question that most would have dismissed only a year ago: Is the military in danger of running out of reserve troops? At first glance the answer would appear to be a clear no. There are nearly 1.2 million men and women on the reserve rolls, and only about 70,000 are now in Iraq to supplement the regulars.

But a deeper look inside the Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve suggests a grim picture: At the current pace and size of American troop deployments to Iraq, the availability of suitable reserve combat troops could become a problem as early as next year.

The National Guard says it has about 86,000 citizen soldiers available for future deployments to Iraq, fewer than it has sent there over the past two years. And it has used up virtually all of its most readily deployable combat brigades.

In an indication of the concern about a thinning of its ranks, last month the National Guard tripled the re-enlistment bonuses offered to soldiers in Iraq who can fill critical skill shortages.

Similarly, the Army Reserve has about

37,500 deployable soldiers left — about 18 percent of its total troop strength.

The Marine Corps Reserve appears to be in a comparable position because most of its 40,000 troops have been mobilized at least once already. Officials said they have no figures available on how many are available for future deployments to Iraq.

Both the Army and the Marines are soliciting reservists to volunteer for duty in Iraq.

"The reserves are pretty well shot" after the Pentagon makes the next troop rotation, starting this summer, said Robert Goldich, a defense analyst at the Congressional Research Service.

Among the evidence:

■ Of the National Guard's 15 best-trained, best-equipped and most ready-to-deploy combat brigades, all but one are either in Iraq now, have demobilized after returning from a one-year tour there or have been alerted for duty in 2005-2006.

■ The Army Reserve, with about 205,000 citizen soldiers on its rolls for support rather than combat duty, has been heavily used since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that, for practical purposes, it has only about 37,500 troops available to perform the kinds of missions required in Iraq, according to an internal briefing chart titled "What's Left in the Army Reserve?"

■ The chief of the Army Reserve, Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, recently advised other Army leaders that his citizen militia is in "grave danger" of being unable to meet all its operational responsibilities. He said the Reserve is "rapidly degenerating into a 'broken' force."

The mix of troops in the U.S. force rotating out of Iraq now is about 90 percent active duty and 50 percent reserves. But that is set to change to 70 percent active and 30 percent reserve for the rotation after that, beginning this summer, because combat-ready Guard units have been tapped out.

Thus, two active-duty Army divisions that have already served one-year tours in Iraq — the 101st Airborne and the 4th Infantry — have been selected to return in the coming rotation. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force already is on its second tour in Iraq.

The potential squeeze could be avoided if security conditions in Iraq improve so drastically this year that the Pentagon decides it can achieve stability with a smaller force.

The original expectation, after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003, was that a troop withdrawal could begin within weeks. But an unanticipated insurgency — which turned out to be lethal and resilient — changed the picture and led to the stressful situation the Army faces today.

# Soldiers receive gear appropriate for deployment

For 3,700 GIs in Europe, Army steps in, issues equipment they had been buying for downrange at own pocket

By WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

GERMERSHEIM, Germany — About 3,700 soldiers in Europe have walked out of a green warehouse building at a remote Army depot this month and come away with savings.

Those savings aren't necessarily green, but desert camouflage. To keep troops from spending what the Army found was an average of \$300 per year on equipment, the service is now issuing troops everything from improved helmets to seasonal boots. The service plans to issue the gear to every soldier headed to Afghanistan, and to as many troops as possible serving in Iraq.

"When we initially went down we didn't have any fielding like this," said Sgt. Carl Johnson with the 29th Support Group, based in Kaiserslautern. Johnson was on his way to Afghanistan but had previously served in Iraq. He said he could have used both cold-weather and hot-weather boots there, despite the region's reputation as a hotbox. It rains and gets muddy in winter.

"So that definitely helps," Johnson said of the winter-issue boots. "They're Gore-Tex."

The troops who lined up for gear and to get quick lessons on how to wear the new-style helmets were on the business end of the Rapid Fielding Initiative, the Army's plan to give soldiers the gear they generally tended to buy themselves or that the Army has determined the troops need downrange.

All troops would get better helmets and boots. Troops with brigade combat teams would get the extra kit, such as grappling hooks, door mats, battle axes and fiber-optic viewers.

"None of this is rocket science, but I've



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. John Cooling, left, helps Pfc. Christopher Keyes adjust his new Advanced Combat Helmet in Gernersheim, Germany, on Monday. The soldiers from the 29th Support Group in Kaiserslautern, Germany, soon will deploy to Afghanistan and were issued several new items under the Army Materiel Command's Rapid Fielding Initiative to "enhance the soldiers survivability, lethality and mobility with mission essential equipment."

had soldiers say to me, 'If my feet are cold, I'm not combat effective,'" said Chuck Pick, spokesman for the Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade Europe.

Another Kaiserslautern soldier, Spc. Gabriel George, had already purchased a fleece jacket and gloves similar to those he picked up Monday. He was nonetheless relieved the Army decided to hand it out, too.

"It's better to have too much than not enough," George said. "There's always some sucker that didn't bring his. I'm glad about it. It's good stuff."

Staff Sgt. Evelyn Charles, also stationed in Kaiserslautern, said she liked the new helmets. "They're more comfortable," she said.

The Advanced Combat Helmet is designed to be more comfortable and less intrusive to vision than traditional Kevlar helmets.

"The padding system inside is a little bit lighter than the old Kevlar," said Jan Siangco, who was the operations manager on site from Team Soldier, the command determining what gear is issued in the program. "And it's more stable. It's like a football helmet."

Troops who don't have the gear yet should expect to get it someday. It's to become standard issue for troops downrange.

"This equipment will be given to all soldiers at some stage," said Gary James, site manager of the Army Materiel Command's Gernersheim depot. "It's basically an upgrade."

Not all troops get the same gear, though. A headquarters staff member likely would skip the grappling hook.

"They're looking at the soldier of the future," James said. "Things aren't the same for every soldier. This is an ongoing process."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sanderson@mail.strips.osd.mil

## IN THE STATES



Parishioners on Sunday gather at the Memorial Wall for the Unborn at the Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church for the burial of several hundred fetuses received from a mortuary in Boulder, Colo.

# Bush talks to foes staging a protest of Roe v. Wade

BY LAURIE KELLMAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush told abortion opponents on Monday he shared their support for "a culture of life" and claimed progress in passing legislation to protect the vulnerable.

"We need most of all to change hearts and that is what we're doing," Bush said as anti-abortion activists marked the 32nd anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion with a day of rallies, protests and other activities.

The issue took on new urgency with the likelihood of a high court vacancy.

Bush addressed marchers by phone from the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., where he had spent the weekend.

Every anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision, prompts demonstrations by opponents and proponents of abortion rights. Activists on both sides of the abortion issue marched in demonstrations across the country Saturday, the actual anniversary of the Jan. 23 decision.

This year there is increasing speculation about Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's health. Three other justices have had cancer.

One or more court vacancies would give President Bush the chance to install another Justice or justices who oppose the Roe de-

## Colorado church buries fetuses

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A Roman Catholic church buried the ashes of hundreds of aborted fetuses Sunday, a day after the 32nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal, drawing criticism that the church was exploiting women's grief to make a political statement.

A crowd of 250 parishioners prayed as the ashes were buried in the Sacred Heart of Mary Church cemetery, while a handful of protesters gathered nearby holding signs that read, "This church is a grave robber."

A mortuary hired by the abortion clinic to dispose of the fetuses had been giving the ashes to the church for years to be buried at a memorial Dr. Warren Hern, clinic director, said he had no idea such an arrangement had been made and said his contract required the mortuary to bury the ashes in its own plot.

The church agreed to return the remains of 300 to 500 fetuses that had been cremated in November before the service began Sunday.

The church had been planning to bury up to 1,000 fetuses. Seven bags containing remains from miscarriages also were buried.

cision, increasing the likelihood that at some point, the ruling could be overturned.

Bush conceded that a society "where every child is welcome...may still be some way away."

Still, he said, he was working with Congress to pass "good, solid legislation to protect the vulnerable." He cited his signing of legislation last year to outlaw certain late-term abortions.

"You know, we come from many, different backgrounds, but what unites us is our understanding that the essence of civilization is this: The strong have a duty to

protect the weak," Bush said. He has said he supports a constitutional amendment to outlaw abortion, but has not actively pushed for it.

Bush also said that he would continue "seeking common ground where possible and persuading increasing numbers of our fellow citizens of the rightness of our cause. This is the path of the culture of life that we seek for our country."

On Monday, abortion opponents staged a rally before a march from the Ellipse to the Supreme Court. Other groups opposed to abortion rights were holding events on Capitol Hill.

## Hutchinson quits homeland security post

WASHINGTON — A top Homeland Security Department official resigned his post Monday after he was passed over twice by the Bush administration to be secretary of the agency.

Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson, in charge of border and transportation security issues, submitted his letter of resignation to the White House early Monday morning, said a DHS official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the resignation had not yet been announced.

Hutchinson is a former Arkansas congressman and former federal drug czar who is believed to be considering a run for Arkansas governor next year. His resignation is expected to be effective March 1.

## Supporters pressing gay marriage ban

WASHINGTON — Senate supporters of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage said Monday they intend to press for passage in the new Congress, branding mixed signals from the White House on the issue's importance at the start of President Bush's second term.

"Who's to say whether we have enough votes or not," said Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., noting that the new two-year Congress has just begun.

He said he expects GOP leaders to call for a vote before the 2006 elections and added, "I think it would be foolhardy to back off when we've got a good head of steam coming out of the election."

# High court rejects Florida appeal in Terry Schiavo case

BY GINA HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Monday to reinstate a Florida law passed to keep a severely brain-damaged woman hooked to a feeding tube, clearing the way for it to be removed. How soon that would happen, however, was unclear.

The Florida Supreme Court had struck down the law last fall, and the justices were the last hope for state leaders who defended the law in a bitter long running dispute over the fate of Terri Schiavo.

Her husband, Michael Schiavo, contends she never wanted to be kept alive artificially. But her parents told justices in a filing that their son-in-law is trying to rush her death so he can inherit her estate and be free to marry another woman.

The Supreme Court did not comment in rejecting an appeal from Gov. Jeb Bush, who argued that the state had the authority to step in and pass the 2003 law that ordered Terri Schiavo's feeding tube reinserted six days after her husband had it removed.

The case goes back to state Judge George Greer, who already has ruled that the brain-damaged woman's husband could withdraw her feeding tube. Although several legal challenges are pending, the Supreme Court was considered the best hope to stop the removal of the tubes.

"I want to murder her," her father, Robert Schindler, said Monday. "I have no idea what the next step will be. We're going to fight for her as much as we can fight for her. She deserves a chance."

The case was one of two right-to-die appeals pending at the high court. Justices are expected to decide in the next month whether to consider a Bush administration request to block the nation's only law allowing doctors to help terminally ill patients die more quickly. Ore-

## Supreme Court developments

In other developments Monday, the court:

■ Gave police broader search powers during traffic stops, ruling that drug-sniffing dogs can be used to check out motorists' cars even if officers have no reason to suspect they may be carrying narcotics.

■ Declined to consider whether states may offer license plates with anti-abortion messages, leaving lower courts divided over whether the programs in a dozen states unconstitutionally restrict dissenting views.

■ Asked federal courts to reconsider sentences for hundreds of defendants who contend they were wrongly punished under a sentencing system the court declared unconstitutional earlier this month.

■ Reinstated the death sentence of a man convicted of bludgeoning to death an elderly couple in Memphis, Tenn. Justices set aside a ruling by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for Gary Bradford Cone.

■ Threw out the appeal of Mississippi death row inmate Marlon Howell less than two months after hearing his case, on grounds that Howell's legal arguments were not properly argued in lower courts first.

From The Associated Press

gon voters passed that law in 1998.

At issue Monday was "Terri's Law," which the Florida Supreme Court ruled unanimously was an unconstitutional effort to override court rulings.

The 41-year-old Schiavo suffered brain damage in 1990 when her heart temporarily stopped beating because of an eating disorder. In 2001, her parents lost an emergency Supreme Court appeal seeking to keep her feeding tube in place, but more appeals followed.

Terri Schiavo has lived in nursing homes. She can breathe on her own but depends on a feeding tube to stay alive because she cannot swallow on her own. She left no written directive.

## Conn. judge delays man's execution

HARTFORD, Conn. — A federal judge said Monday he will order a postponement in the execution of serial killer Michael Ross, who waived his appeals and was set to become the first person put to death in New England in nearly 45 years.

Judge Robert N. Chatigny said he wants to hear more evidence about Ross' mental capacity.

"I think it is inevitable that I will be issuing a stay postponing an execution until the outcome of this proceeding," Chatigny said. He did not say how long the stay would last.

From The Associated Press





Chip Carbone uses a snowblower to remove more than two feet of snow from his sidewalk in Providence, R.I., on Monday after a weekend blizzard hit the Northeast.

## Northeast trying to dig out

BY THEO EMERY

The Associated Press

**BOSTON** — The city's airport partially reopened Monday but schools and courthouses were closed in many areas as the Northeast struggled to recover from the weekend's blizzard.

The roar of snowblowers and the scrape of shovels were heard as residents worked to free their sidewalks and cars from deep mounds of snow.

The storm dumped more than 3 feet of snow on Massachusetts, and drifts were piled up to the eaves of some one-story buildings.

Frustrated travelers waited for transportation after a weekend in which hundreds of airline flights were canceled.

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney asked nonessential state workers in the eastern part of the state not to come to work, and Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri closed all state and municipal offices Monday. School closings were reported from Maine to parts of Virginia.

At least 15 deaths were linked to the weather: three in Connecticut, three in Ohio, three in Wisconsin, two in Pennsylvania, and one each in Maryland, Delaware, Iowa and Massachusetts.

States of emergency were declared in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey.

On Massachusetts' Nantucket island, where an 84 mph wind gust was reported, the storm plunged the entire island into

darkness until most service was restored Sunday night. The island's fire department worked to reach to reach people at risk, such as the elderly and the very young, in areas cut off by drifts up to 6 feet high.

"We just don't have the equipment to handle that amount of snow," said Nantucket deputy fire chief Mark McDougall.

Two eastern Massachusetts communities — Salem and Plymouth — got 38 inches of snow each, according to the National Weather Service.

Parts of New Hampshire got 2 feet, New York's Catskills collected at least 20 inches and more than a foot fell in parts of New Jersey. Earlier, the weather system had piled a foot of snow across parts of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and northern Ohio.

## Rose Mary Woods, secretary who erased Watergate tape, dies

BY MARK WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

**COLUMBIUS, Ohio** — In 1973, Rose Mary Woods emerged from the relative obscurity of typing letters and juggling schedules. The devoted secretary of President Nixon was in the middle of the Watergate crisis.

Woods, who ignited a firestorm when she said she inadvertently erased part of a crucial Watergate tape that had an 18½-minute gap, died Saturday at a nursing home in Alliance, about 60 miles south of Cleveland. She was 87.

Funeral home owner Roger Ruzek said Sunday he did not know the cause of death.

The gap in the tape of a June 20, 1972, conversation between Richard Nixon and chief of staff H.R. Haldeman was critical to the question of what Nixon knew about the break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex three days earlier — and when he knew it.

Woods, who moved to northeastern Ohio after leaving the disgraced president's staff in 1976, never talked much about her years with the only American president to resign the office.

But Nixon considered her a member of the family. He wrote in his memoirs that it was Woods he asked to inform first lady Pat



Woods

Nixon and his daughters in 1974 that he had decided to resign on Aug. 9.

When the time came for the family to privately say goodbye to Nixon before he climbed aboard the helicopter headed for Air Force One, Woods stood by with Mrs. Nixon, daughters Tricia and Julie, and their husbands.

Julie Nixon Eisenhower and Tricia Nixon Cox said in a statement Sunday that Woods will be remembered for her devotion to the country and their family.

Woods, the granddaughter of an Irish stewardess, was born in Sebring, 20 miles southwest of Youngstown, on Dec. 26, 1917, and was raised in a strict Roman Catholic family.

She worked as a pottery company secretary in Sebring, then moved to Washington to become a typist on Capitol Hill, where she caught the eye of a rising Republican star, Congressman Richard Nixon of California. When he was elected to the Senate in 1950, he hired Woods as his secretary.

Nixon defended his loyal employee when fingers pointed at Woods, who had spent weeks transcribing subpoenaed White House tapes. "I know I did not do it," Nixon said. "And I completely believe Rose when she says that she did not do it."

She denied she caused the full 18½-minute gap, testifying later that she inadvertently erased four or five minutes. The phone record while she was transcribing the tape, she said, and she accidentally hit the record button.

A picture in which she demonstrated her action became one of the most famous images of the era.

## Senate making Condoleezza Rice wait a bit longer for new job

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — An important part of President Bush's second-term plans went slightly off the rails during an inauguration week that ran pretty much on time.

If the White House had its way, Condoleezza Rice would have been confirmed by the Senate as secretary of state on Thursday, when Bush took the oath of office and gave his inaugural address. Rice easily won a vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but Democrats stalled a vote by the full Senate on her nomination.

The delay probably says something

about Rice's sometimes indignant responses to tough questions during two days of confirmation hearings last week, and something about the hair-trigger atmosphere in the highly polarized Congress, said Paul C. Light, a New York University professor and fellow at the Brookings Institution.

"My advice to her is, 'Chill out, and don't take it personally,'" Light said. "She needs to get used to the prying eyes of Congress."

Rice did not have much direct experience with Congress as White House national security adviser the past four years. This was the first time she has gone through the sometimes rigorous and exhausting confirmation process.

"Condoleezza Rice may have been in the chair, but some may have seen President George Bush sitting there, so there was a face-to-face confrontation, some important questions," the committee chairman, Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

The Senate planned to debate the nomination on Tuesday, with a vote set for Wednesday.

Rice's quick move to the State Department was so widely expected that department employees had been told to get ready for a welcome session at the building last Friday. The greeting was to take place in the same mezzanine area where the presi-

dent's first secretary of state, Colin Powell, bade farewell to employees last Wednesday.

Still on duty, Powell represented the United States at the inauguration on Sunday of Ukraine's democratically elected president, Viktor Yushchenko.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid denied Republicans' suggestions that Democrats are playing politics with Rice's nomination.

Rice is a chief architect of the Bush administration policies in Iraq and in the overall fight against terrorism, and her record should be reviewed with care, Reid and fellow Democrat Sen. Joseph Biden said in a statement Friday.



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# Key Republican quest for Social Security overhaul

BY RICHARD SIMON  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A key Senate Republican raised questions Sunday about President Bush's proposal for overhauling Social Security, underscoring the heavy political lifting the president faces in selling even members of his own party on his proposal to let younger workers put a portion of their payroll taxes into private investment accounts.

Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, a self-described moderate Republican who sits on the Senate Finance Committee, said on CNN's "Inside Politics Sunday" that she was "certainly not going to support diverting \$2 trillion from Social Security into creating personal savings accounts" — a reference to concerns that such accounts would deepen the budget deficit.

"I don't object to personal savings accounts per se, but that's got to be a part of a larger retirement security picture, as one dimension," she said. "But the existing program, as it has been developed over the last 70 years, provides a stable monthly income that has prevented seniors, almost 50 percent, from falling into poverty. I don't think we want to erode the principles of that system."

The support of Snowe — a member of the committee that will write the Senate's version of any Social Security legislation — and other moderate Republicans will be critical if Bush's plan is to succeed.

But on Sunday, two other GOP legislators also offered skeptical views of the administration's proposal.

Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said that any solution must be bipartisan — an observation suggesting that what Bush has proposed so far could be doomed, since no Senate Democrat has yet

to step forward and endorse his plan.

Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," he appealed to Democrats and Republicans to find common ground. "How can you save a system this large that affects this many Americans by having a red state/blue state view of it?" he said.

While Graham has floated the idea of increasing the annual wage cap on Social Security taxes from \$90,000 to \$200,000 to pay for part of the transition costs for private accounts, Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, questioned whether the payroll tax was the best way to finance Social Security.

Thomas, who will be a leader in writing Social Security legislation, reiterated his hope of using Bush's proposal as a starting point and pursuing a broader re-vamping of Social Security in tandem with another of the president's priorities — overhauling the tax code.

"To simply lock ourselves into trench warfare over private accounts or not private accounts, over benefit cuts or not benefit cuts, means we will fail once again in addressing the needs of this society, both the young and the old," Thomas said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The Republicans' differing points of view show the long struggle that lies ahead, even among members of Bush's own party, over changes to a program that is widely described as a "third rail" of politics because of the danger

in touching it.

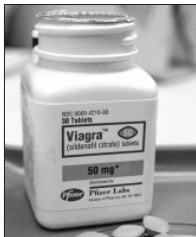
Some Democrats whom the White House was counting on to support Bush's Social Security restructuring — including those who have previously supported his tax cuts or other initiatives — have come out against his proposal, or at least expressed strong reservations about the private accounts. Although Republicans increased their majorities in the House and the Senate in last fall's elections, Bush still needs to win the support of not only his fellow Republicans but some Democrats in order to avoid a Democratic filibuster.

"There is very little appetite, even among Republicans, to adopt a proposal that would significantly alter the most popular government program," said Marshall Wittmann, a former Senate GOP staffer now with the centrist Democratic Leadership Council. "It is unlikely that Republicans are willing to go out on a limb — because while the president won't be on the ballot again, they will."

Snowe said she was concerned that the debate so far — without a specific proposal from the White House — has created "confusion and fear among seniors."

In a statement issued by her office on Friday, she cautioned against acting precipitously "when a consensus hasn't been reached on the level of urgency to address the debt long-term problem."

Social Security is facing trouble because of the nation's aging population, lower birth rate and increased life expectancy. Starting in 2018, the number of retirees collecting benefits will exceed the number of workers paying Social Security taxes. By 2042, according to the Bush administration — the Congressional Budget Office predicts 2052 — the system is projected to fall short of money to pay all of the promised benefits, necessitating possible cuts.



Viagra, widely used to treat erectile dysfunction, may be useful in the treatment of enlarged hearts. A research team fed the pill to mice and found that it blocked or even reversed some of the heart enlargement caused by high blood pressure. Plans are under way to determine if the results will be similar in humans.

AP

## Enlarged heart could be treated by Viagra

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMIDT  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Viagra may aid in the treatment of enlarged hearts that can result from high blood pressure, tests on animals indicate.

Plans are under way for a trial to determine if similar results occur in humans given the drug widely used to treat erectile dysfunction.

The drug, known generically as sildenafil citrate, blocked and even reversed some of the heart enlargement in mice with blood pressure stress, said researchers led by Dr. David A. Kass of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"A larger-than-normal heart is a serious medical condition, known as hypertrophy, and is a common feature of heart failure that can be fatal," Kass said.

He said the findings "suggest possible therapies in the future, including sildenafil, which has the added benefit of already being studied as safe and effective

for another medical condition" — male sexual dysfunction.

The report, in Sunday's online edition of *Nature Medicine*, came as no surprise to Dr. William B. White, head of the hypertension section of the University of Connecticut Health Center.

White, who was not part of Kass' research team, noted that sildenafil originally was discovered by researchers studying blood pressure and heart disease.

The drug, however, is effective only for a short time, he said. It would need to be taken acting to be useful in treating heart enlargement, White said. The researchers stressed that the makers of Viagra had no involvement in the research.

Their work was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Peter Belfer Laboratory for Heart Failure Research, Uehara Memorial Foundation, American Heart Association, American Physiological Society and Bernard Family Foundation.

Their work was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Peter Belfer Laboratory for Heart Failure Research, Uehara Memorial Foundation, American Heart Association, American Physiological Society and Bernard Family Foundation.



Sue Anna Yeh, a student at First Colony Middle School in Sugar Land, Texas, wrote a poem about "No Name-Calling Week" that was first prize in a contest related to the event, which will be observed at hundreds of middle schools nationwide this week.

## Be nice. It's 'No Name-Calling Week'

BY DAVID CRARY  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Using a young readers' novel called "The Misfits" as its centerpiece, middle schools nationwide will participate in a "No Name-Calling Week" initiative starting Monday. The program, now in its second year, has the backing of groups such as the Girl Scouts and Amnesty International but has also drawn complaints that it overemphasizes harassment of gay youths.

The initiative was developed by the New York-based Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, which seeks to ensure that schools safely accommodate students of all sexual orientations. GLSEN worked with James Howe, the openly gay author of "The Misfits" and many other popular children's books.

"Gay students aren't the only

kids targeted — this isn't about special rights for them," Howe said. "But the fact is that 'faggot' is probably the most common insult at schools."

"The Misfits" deals with four much-taunted middle schoolers — one of them gay — who run for the student council on a platform advocating an end to nasty name-calling.

GLSEN is unsure how many schools will participate in this week's event, but says 5,100 educators from 36 states have registered, up from 4,000 last year. Participation in a related writing-music-art contest rose from 100 students last year to 1,600 this year; the winning poem was written by Sue Anna Yeh, a 13-year-old from Sugar Land, Texas.

"No Name-Calling Week" takes aim at insults of all kinds — whether based on a child's appearance, background or behavior.

But a handful of conservative critics have zeroed in on the references to harassment based on sexual orientation.

"I hope schools will realize it's less an exercise in tolerance than a platform for liberal groups to promote their pan-sexual agenda," said Robert Knight, director of Concerned Women for America's Culture and Family Institute.

In contrast, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued a proclamation recognizing the event, and more than 40 national organizations have enlisted as partners, including the Girl Scouts, the national associations of elementary and secondary school principals, and the National Education Association.

"People who would criticize this, regardless of who came out with it, are people with bad hearts," said Gerald Newberry, who directs the NEA's health information network.







## OPINION

## Sunnis don't want minority rule blown up

BY ROBERT ZELNICK

Every time I hear advocates for Iraq's Sunni Muslims urge postponement of the Jan. 30 vote, I recall legendary lawyer Louis Nizer's story about dissenting members of a corporate board of directors who, after tossing their colleagues out the window, promptly moved to adjourn for the absence of a quorum.

The Sunnis have reason to be unhappy. For nearly a century under the assortment of kings and cutthroats that ran Baghdad, they dominated Iraq. The Shiites in the South outnumbered them nearly 3 to 1, and the Kurds in the north were their numerical equal. But Sunnis dominated the government, the military, the police, higher education, business and the Baath political party. Moreover, when Saddam Hussein chased the starving and frozen Kurds to the mountains of Turkey and turned his southern guns on the Shiites, killing 300,000 of them, the Sunnis were not at risk. In a democratic society, or even one with rough representative government, their influence would more reflect their numbers.

Small wonder that military and political insurgents, not to mention the terrorists who cut car bombs into crowded markets, massacre police trainees and slit the throats of aid dispensers, have come mainly from the ranks of Sunnis about to see political power redistributed. Small wonder their four prov-

inces are the least secure among Iraq's eighteen.

The arguments for delaying the vote are not entirely frivolous.

Mainstream Sunni political and religious leaders say they need time for things to settle down. Their voices are augmented by a sprinkling of Americans who see the risk of greater violence, even civil war, if the Sunnis are dealt substantially out of the game. Hold off the elections, they urge. Revise the voting formula to ensure representation from the Sunni geographic regions. Then hold a vote.

But postponement carries even greater risks. One is the awful precedent of rewarding terrorism. Scuttle an election because of insurgent treachery and the likely result would be more, not less treachery. This is a volatile area where limiting the plebiscite to those of saintly disposition would be futile. But as we have seen recently in the case of the Palestinians, a minimal commitment to shun violence is a fair price to pay for participation in the political process. One must choose between the ballot and the gun.

An even greater danger would be delivering a political insult of devastating proportion to Iraq's Shiites. If Sunni violence can delay majority rule, then Shiites might conclude that their own violence can restore it. And a Shiite-Sunni clash would provide all kinds of opportunities for mischief to Iran, the neighboring Shiite power.

Fair better to hold the scheduled elections



for the 275-member legislature charged with drafting a constitution, and reach out to the Sunnis through that body. Some might be brought immediately into government. The constitution can be tailored to protect regional as well as religious representational interests, just as women are guaranteed 20 percent of the seats in the new legislature.

Dissenters ask whether an election where some can't vote can pass the test of international legitimacy. Which brings us back to Nizer and his quorum call.

Robert Zelnick is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, a Stanford, Calif.-based think tank, and chairman of the Department of Journalism at Boston University.

## Nixed bombing of Auschwitz could have saved lives

BY STEPHEN J. SOLARZ AND RAFAEL MEDOFF

PHILADELPHIA

World leaders will gather at Auschwitz, site of the former Nazi death camp, tomorrow to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Allies' liberation of the camp.

The event will help focus needed attention on the horrors of genocide, then and now. But it will be haunted by the knowledge that, in 1944, Allied bomber pilots had Auschwitz within their gun sights, yet were never given the order to attack.

George McGovern was one of those pilots. McGovern, the former U.S. senator from South Dakota and 1972 Democratic presidential nominee, recently spoke on camera for the first time about his experiences as one of the American pilots who flew over Auschwitz.

In a meeting with interviewers from Israel Television and the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, McGovern recalled his days as the pilot of a B-24 Liberator in the 45th Bomb Group, targeting German synthetic oil plants in occupied Poland. Many of them within a few miles of the Auschwitz gas chambers.

After the Allies gained control of Foggia Air Base in Italy in December 1943, Auschwitz was for the first time within striking distance of Allied planes.

In June 1944, U.S. diplomats and Jewish leaders in Switzerland received a detailed report about Auschwitz, prepared by two escapees. They described the mass-murder facilities, and drew diagrams showing where the gas chambers and crematoria were located.

As a result, Jewish organizations repeatedly asked the Roosevelt administration to order the bombing of Auschwitz and the railroad lines leading to the camp.

The War Department rejected the proposals as "impracticable," claiming such raids would require "considerable diver-

sion" of planes needed for the war effort. U.S. officials claimed to have conducted a "study" that found that bombing Auschwitz was not militarily feasible. But no evidence of the alleged study has ever been found.

Ironically, military resources were diverted for various other nonmilitary reasons. Secretary of War Henry Stimson blocked the Air Force's plan to bomb the Japanese city of Kyoto, because of the city's artistic treasures, and his deputy, John McCloy — who rebuffed many of the requests to bomb Auschwitz — diverted U.S. bombers from striking the German city of Rothenburg because of its famous medieval architecture. Gen. George Patton even diverted U.S. troops to rescue 150 Lipizzan horses in Austria.

The administration's "diversion" argument was just a "rationalization," McGovern said in the interview. How much of a "rationalization" would it have been, when he and other U.S. bomber-pilots already were flying over the area? In the summer and

fall of 1944, the Allies repeatedly bombed the oil refineries near Auschwitz — at a time when hundreds of Jews were being gassed daily in the camp.

On Dec. 26, for instance, McGovern's squadron dropped 50 tons of bombs on oil facilities in Monowitz, an industrial section of Auschwitz, located less than five miles from the site where 1.6 million people were murdered from 1942 to 1944.

"There is no question we should have attempted ... to go after Auschwitz," McGovern said. "There was a pretty good chance we could have blasted those rail lines off the face of the earth, which would have interrupted the flow of people to those death chambers, and we had a pretty good chance of knocking out those gas ovens."

Even if there was a danger of accidentally harming some of the prisoners, "it was certainly worth the effort, despite all the risks," he noted, because the prisoners were already "doomed to death" and an Allied bombing attack might have slowed down the mass-murder process and saved many more lives.

"Franklin Roosevelt was a great man and he was my political hero," McGovern said. "But I think he made two great mistakes in World War II."

"One was the internment of Japanese-Americans," he said, and the other was the decision "not to go after Auschwitz. ... God forgive us for that tragic miscalculation."

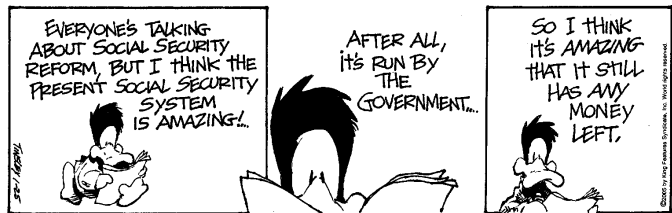
One hopes the world leaders meeting at the Auschwitz site this week will reflect not only upon the savagery of the Nazis, but also on the role of bystanders, then and now.

As McGovern emphasized, the Auschwitz experience should produce "a determination that never again will we fail to exercise the full capacity of our strength in that direction ... we should have gone all out against Auschwitz, and we must never again permit genocide."

Stephen J. Solarz, a New York Democrat, served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975 to 1983. Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies, which focuses on issues related to America's response to the Holocaust.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## IN THE WORLD

## U.N. officials gather to recall liberation of Nazi death camps

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — To the solemn strains of a choir, U.N. officials gathered in Vienna on Monday to kick off a week of events worldwide marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi death camps.

Evoking images of the piles of human hair, eyeglasses and empty suitcases at Auschwitz, diplomats urged the international community to ensure the horrors of the Holocaust can never be repeated.

Patrick Villemur, France's representative to U.N. organizations based in the Austrian capital, reminded about 200 officials and employees who gathered in the rotunda of the U.N. complex overlooking the Danube River that the United Nations was founded "as the world was awakening to the full horror of the camps."

Villemur urged nations to keep pulling together to ensure "there is never a repetition of these nightmares."

The Vienna gathering came ahead of a much-larger commemorative event later Monday at U.N. headquarters in New York, where Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, were to address the General Assembly.

Grigory Berdennikov, Russia's permanent representative to the U.N. agencies in Vienna, recalled

how Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz 60 years ago this Thursday. The Nazis' slaughter of 6 million Jews, he said, "will remain in the world's memory as a horrific crime."

"Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice," he said. "It is important to remember the lessons of history so it will not be repeated."

**"Time will not diminish the meaning of their sacrifice. It is important to remember the lessons of history so it will not be repeated."**

Grigory Berdennikov  
Russia's representative to U.N. agencies

Peter Redmond Jenkins, Britain's chief envoy in Vienna, described how he and his family visited Austria's notorious Mauthausen labor camp last summer so he could teach his young children about "one of the darkest stains on Europe's history."

Only by working together can the world avoid "stamp out genocide wherever it may occur," Jenkins said.

"Without constant vigilance, (death camps) could again be part of our future," U.S. diplomat David Noble warned.

"Let us ensure that Auschwitz and the other camps will remain a byword of history for the path humanity refuses to take," he said.

In a brief but emotional address, Israeli diplomat Michaeli said the Jewish state forever will bear the scars of the Holocaust, which he described as "the culmination of 1,500 years of anti-Semitism and hatred."

"Every generation must be on its guard to ensure such evil never happens again," he said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko seen during a meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow on Monday. Yushchenko's visit aimed to smooth relations with the Kremlin.

## New Ukraine president visits Russia on first foreign trip

BY MARA D. BELLABY  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A day after taking office as Ukraine's president, Viktor Yushchenko arrived in Russia Monday to smooth relations with the Kremlin, which feared he would take his country out of Moscow's sphere of influence. But the reformist leader also named a fiery ally, whom Russia has been trying to arrest, as prime minister.

Yushchenko's visit to Moscow is a delicate balancing act to move closer to the West while not upsetting relations with his powerful neighbor — while for Russian President Vladimir Putin, the meeting could help undo the damage of his unsuccessful foray into Ukrainian politics.

As the two leaders sat down for

talks in the Kremlin, Yushchenko's office announced he had named Yulia Tymoshenko as Ukraine's new prime minister.

Russian prosecutors in September issued an international arrest warrant for Tymoshenko, a fiery orator and a key driving force behind massive opposition protests that paved the way for Yushchenko's victory in a repeat election last month.

Tymoshenko was accused of bribing Russian defense officials, and Moscow said she was put on the wanted list because she failed to turn up for questioning in Moscow. Tymoshenko claimed she hadn't received any summons, and said the charges against her were politically motivated.

During the Kremlin meeting, Yushchenko told Putin that "Russia is our eternal strategic partner."

"I will not conceal the fact that it was not an easy campaign," Yushchenko said of the presidential race in which Putin openly backed his rival, then prime minister Viktor Yanukovich.

While Yushchenko appeared reserved and at times nervous, Putin smiled and warmly received the new Ukrainian leader.

"We are very happy that this difficult political period in Ukraine has passed, and that a government is in place... and we expect that our relations will continue to develop," Putin said.

Russia views Ukraine as a key part of its historic sphere of influence, a major transit route for its oil and gas exports and a buffer between the expanding European Union and NATO. Moscow is nervous about Yushchenko's plans to quickly integrate the 48-million nation into Western structures.

## Iran says it will open production plant to process uranium ore concentrate

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran is inaugurating a uranium ore concentrate production plant near the southern port city of Bandar Abbas within a year, Iran's nuclear chief said.

Gholamreza Aghazadeh was quoted by state-run radio on Sunday as saying the Bandar Abbas Yellowcake Production Plant would open during the next Iranian calendar year, which begins March 21.

The nuclear facility will process ore extracted from uranium mine into uranium ore concen-

trate, known as yellowcake. The processing is part of the early stages before actual enrichment of uranium.

The uranium ore concentrate can then be processed into uranium hexafluoride, which later can be turned into a gas used as feedstock for enriching uranium.

Uranium enriched to low grades is used for fuel in nuclear reactors, but further enrichment makes it suitable for atomic bombs.

Under an agreement reached with France, Germany and Britain, which negotiated on behalf of the European Union, Iran will continue suspension of its enrichment

activities during negotiations with the Europeans about EU economic, political and technological aid. Iran has said it will decide within three months whether to continue suspension.

Israel will follow the U.S. lead in dealing with Iran's nuclear aspirations, Vice Premier Shimon Peres said Monday, but did not rule out military action if diplomatic and economic pressure fail to stop Tehran from developing nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile in London, the British government on Monday insisted diplomacy was the best way to solve the standoff over Iran's nuclear program, and rejected talk of tension with the United States.

## Palestinian militants tell Abbas they will halt attacks

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Militant groups have agreed to suspend attacks as they near a formal truce deal with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and await Israel's response, a senior Palestinian official said Monday.

The militants' promise came after Israeli leaders said Sunday that Israel is ready to hold its fire if calm prevails, moving the two sides closer to ending four years of bloody conflict.

Israeli President Moshe Katsav, who holds a largely ceremonial post, called Abbas on Monday, Katsav's office said. The two leaders talked about the importance of working together for peace, a statement said.

U.S. envoy William Burns, a senior State Department official, is to arrive in the region later this week for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on the emerging cease-fire deal. Abbas is seeking Israeli guarantees that it will halt military operations, including arrest raids and targeted killings of militants.

Israel, in the past, has refused to grant amnesty to militants, but appeared to be softening its position. Assaf Shariv, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Israel would not make public declarations. "It will be a de facto cease-fire," he said.

"If there is quiet, we will respond with quiet."

# U.N.: Tsunami survivors leaving relief camps

Amos Haluch, 90, right, sits with wife Florence Emos, left, and great-granddaughter Prema at a tsunami relief camp built on a soccer field in Mus village, Car Nicobar Islands, India.

AP



BY MICHAEL CASEY

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Tsunami survivors in Indonesia's shattered Aceh province have left relief camps by the tens of thousands in recent days to move in with relatives, a U.N. official said Monday, as the government and separatist rebels tried to turn the disaster into a chance for peace.

Elsewhere in Indonesia, a powerful earthquake sent thousands of people scrambling for higher

ground, fearful it would trigger a tsunami like the one that killed at least 160,000 in the Indian Ocean region last month, most in Aceh. Officials said there was no danger of killer waves.

Joel Boutroux, the head of the U.N. relief effort in Aceh, said the number of relief camps has dropped by about 75 percent in the past week, from 385 to less than 100. The number of people in any one camp ranges from a few hundred to about 2,000.

The "dramatic decrease" is

good news because relief settlements can make survivors too dependent on outside help, keeping them from rebuilding their lives, Boutroux said. He said most of those leaving were moving in with relatives, though a few were returning to their villages along Aceh's devastated west coast.

The government is building temporary housing for 100,000 survivors, along with mosques, schools and medical facilities. Some of the homes could be ready next week, enabling more survivors to move out of their tents.

Boutroux also said a survey found that 12.7 percent of tsunami survivors under 5 were malnourished, slightly higher than the national average of about 9 percent. Part of the reason was their diet lacked variety, he said.

He said many survivors received little more than rice and biscuits in the first weeks after the disaster. Now fish, salt and sugar are available, he said.

Boutroux praised the role of the Indonesian military in relief efforts but suggested that the operations should eventually be handed over to a civilian authorities.

"I believe there is a consensus on the need for the civilian authorities here to take full control of the operation," he said.

"We are in support of this process."

The military has heavy presence in the province, where separatists have been fighting for an independent homeland for nearly 30 years. On Sunday, Indonesian officials agreed to meet with Aceh rebel leaders later this week in Finland to negotiate a cease-fire so they can devote their energy to rebuilding.

"There is a hope that the scale of the disaster and the movement for rebuilding Aceh will help lead to social and political reconciliation between Indonesia and the rebels," said Dewi Anwar Fortuna, a prominent analyst and a former Indonesian presidential adviser.

In Sri Lanka, Norway's foreign minister met separately with the country's prime minister and a Tamil rebel leader over the weekend to help resolve a dispute over aid distribution in the island nation, where the tsunami killed about 31,000 people and displaced another 1 million.

Tamil rebels have repeatedly accused the government of obstructing aid deliveries to rebel-controlled areas in Sri Lanka's north and east — allegations the government denies.

At Norway's urging, the two sides agreed to discuss the creation of a joint body that would ensure relief is fairly disbursed. If they do agree to such cooperation, it would represent serious progress in a conflict that has lingered for two decades.

Also Monday, Indonesia was rocked by a 6.2-magnitude earthquake that caused panic and damaged dozens of homes on Sulawesi island — far to the east of Aceh. Thousands of people ran to higher ground in the city of Palu, where police said about 30 wooden houses were damaged, and patients at the main Undata hospital fled the building.

"They were shouting 'water, water' because they feared waves," said Dr. Riri Lamadji.

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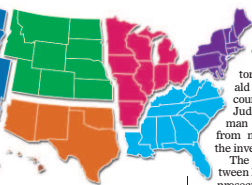
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## Wrongful death

**MA** SPRINGFIELD — The family of an 11-year-old West Springfield boy who fell to his death while climbing a factory smokestack more than two years ago was awarded \$6.5 million by a Superior Court Judge in a wrongful death lawsuit.

Paul H. Rothschild, a Springfield lawyer representing the family of Andrew J. Mann, said that the judgment was against the trustees of the West Springfield Trade Center Condominium Trust, CCS Enterprises. The trade center controls the property where the smokestack was located on Western Avenue.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Sewage spill in paradise

**HI** PEARL CITY — About 2.3 million gallons of sewage spilled from the Pearl City wastewater pumping station, damaging several homes when sewage backed up inside them.

Crews didn't manage to stop the flow until more than six hours after the spill began. They continued to clean up the mess the next day.

Athan Adachi, chief of the city's wastewater division, said improvements were being made at the pump station when a contractor opened a pressurized sewage pipe, causing the spill.

"The pipe broke loose and the sewage started coming out," Adachi said. "They couldn't shut it down and the whole area started to flood with sewage."

The pipe was opened because of a miscommunication between the contractor and a worker at the plant, he said.

### Rape charges dropped

**LA** LEESVILLE — A man won't face trial on charges he raped three residents of a short-term home for the mentally handicapped because his accusers were found incompetent to testify against him.

Prosecutors dropped six aggravated rape charges against Louis Glenn Dowden, who was a resident training specialist at the Leesville Developmental Center.

Prosecutors said the case rested largely on the victims' testimony and the judge ruled them incompetent to testify following a two-day hearing. The victims all have IQs under 70.

Dowden was arrested in March 2002 after state officials began investigating the rape allegations. He was also put on administrative leave by the state.

### Awarded for generosity

**MT** LIMA — Eight high school students who gave their senior class trip money to a teacher with cancer will be able to travel after all, thanks to donations from people who were touched by the students' generosity.

The eight graduating seniors at Lima High School in southwest Montana gave \$5,000 in December to Karla McGraw, a teacher and volleyball coach diagnosed with advanced breast cancer, to help her with medical expenses.

When Lima resident Ben Yarbrough heard about the stu-

dents' donation, he set up a fund that has since grown to more than \$8,300, thanks to donations from as far away as Florida and New York City.

### Six injured in fire

**NY** NEW YORK — An early morning fire in the middle of blizzard conditions left six people with minor injuries in Staten Island.

Firefighters responded to the blaze at about 2:30 a.m. at a six-story apartment on Park Hill Avenue, said Firefighter Paul Iannizzotto, a fire department spokesman.

About 35 units and 150 firefighters were called to the fire.

The fire started on the first floor and extended through the building. Firefighters were able to put the flames out after about an hour. The cause of the fire has not been determined yet.

Six residents of the apartment suffered minor injuries. Three of them were taken to Staten Island University Hospital North for treatment.

### Misconduct alleged

**IL** CHICAGO — A judge accused a federal prosecutor of misconduct for turning grand jury materials over to a plaintiff's lawyer in a hospital-fraud case, sparking a dispute that has led to

an investigation of several lawyers in the U.S. attorney's office, court records show.

In response, U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald asked a federal appeals court to force U.S. District Judge James F. Holderman to disqualify himself from making rulings during the investigation.

The monthslong feud between Holderman and federal prosecutors was made public when hundreds of pages of court papers were unsealed.

### Defending polygamy

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — A Republican state lawmaker countered a Senate colleague's dispersal of an anti-polygamy book by passing out materials to fellow legislators defending the practice as natural and not necessarily harmful.

State Sen. Carlene Walker said she was offended by the book, "God's Brothel," that Democratic Senate Minority Whip Ron Allen distributed to legislators.

Walker said she has known polygamists who are "fine, honest, educated, wonderful people."

### Welfare workers fired

**FL** TAMPA — Two child welfare workers were fired and a third was demoted after a 4-month-old child under their supervision was beaten to death, authorities said.

Phoenix Jordan Parrish died in Dothan, Ala., after his mother banged his head against a bed to stop him from crying, authorities said.

Tierra Capri Gobble, 21, had been ordered by a court to stay away from the child.

Hillsborough Kids Inc., a private agency that handles foster care and adoption for the state of Florida, said the three employees failed to monitor the child after he was taken out of state by his great-uncle, Edgar Parrish. The workers were not identified.

### Bronze swords stolen

**PA** HARRISBURG — The National Park Service is looking for two bronze swords stolen from monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park, officials said.

The first sword was reported missing Sept. 15 from the bronze Alexander Hays sculpture and the latest was believed to have been taken recently from the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry stone monument, the service said.

Both were pried or broken off the monuments, Park Service spokeswoman Katie Lawton said.

### Sheriff's deputy indicted

**FL** TAMPA — A sheriff's deputy was indicted on charges that he used a police computer to track a friend's former lover and her new boyfriend before attacks were carried out against the couple.

Deputy Charles Maye allegedly used his access to the National Crime Information Center's database to help his friend Leroy Collins track down James McLennan, the new boyfriend of Collins' ex-girlfriend. Prosecutors say he also used the computer to find the girlfriend's address.



### Slippery perch

system near Klamath Falls, Ore.

A bald eagle carefully walks on an iced-over pipe on a circle irrigation



### Come sail away

With spinnaker billowing, Farr 40-class boats sail on a downwind track during the Key West 2005 regatta off Key West, Fla.



### Winter wonderland

Hugo Day, 3, gets taken for a ride by Tessa Muehlechner during the snowy weather in Washington.





Midshipmen throw snowballs while playing in the snow in downtown Annapolis, Md.

## Snowball fight



## Stupid human tricks

Jeff Snodgrass shows how he can use suction to stick five soda cans to his face during an audition for The Late Show's Stupid Human Tricks held at the Omplex in Oklahoma City.



## Soakin' up some sun

As seen from a helicopter, a man floats in a condominium complex pool in off Siesta Key Public Beach in Sarasota, Fla.

## Two die in plane crash

**TX** ABILENE — Two Dallas men died when their single-engine airplane clipped a power line and crashed near Brownwood.

Paulose Mathai, 50, and Karl Robert Brinker, 28, were flying from Dallas and approaching Brownwood Regional Airport when the crash occurred about 7 a.m., according to the Department of Public Safety in Brownwood.

The men were in a Beech 36 model, single-engine plane when the landing gear clipped a power line, a DPS spokeswoman said. The plane hit a group of standing trees, the left wing broke off and the aircraft burst into flames, The Abilene Reporter-News reported.

## Airport expansion

**VA** RESTON — A Reston-based developer who has fought the multibillion-dollar plan to extend Metrolink to Dulles International Airport has offered his own proposal to ease northern Virginia's transportation woes.

Under his plan, Chris Walker said his company would widen Interstate 66 and the Dulles Toll Road between Washington and the airport — a congested 27-mile route.

Walker said he would pay for the project by charging a toll that would vary with the time of day on some of the lanes. Other lanes would be free, which means drivers willing to pay would save time by traveling in the restricted lanes with fewer cars.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is considering three similar proposals from private businesses for stretches of the Capital Beltway and Interstate 95.

## Taking on obesity

**ME** PORTLAND — Obesity will be one of the issues on the Legislature's agenda now that lawmakers have passed a tax relief bill.

Lawmakers will consider bills to require chain restaurants to list calories on menus; have schools give parents confidential reports on their child's body fat; and stop teachers from using junk food to reward students.

With obesity on the rise in Maine, supporters of the bills say it's time to address poor nutrition and lack of physical activity.

Obesity has grown 20 percent over the last decade, with more than half of Maine adults overweight or obese and nearly 30 percent of high schoolers overweight or at risk of becoming so.

If current trends continue, obesity will overtake tobacco as the leading cause of preventable death, health experts say.

## Airport inspections

**HI** HONOLULU — The state Department of Transportation will use \$447,768 from the airport special fund to inspect airfields and to update pavement management systems plans for 14 airports throughout the state.

The federal government's share for the project is \$2.5 million, according to state officials, who said Gov. Linda Lingle had released the state money.

Data collected from the inspec-

tions will be used to formulate new short- and long-term plans to maintain and upgrade airfields, the governor's office said.

The inspections are required every three years by the Federal Aviation Administration to determine the amount of federal funding for airfield pavement rehabilitation projects, officials said.

"This important preventative effort, which uses airport special funds and federal dollars, will help in our ongoing plan to improve the airport infrastructure on all islands," DOT Director Rod Isagani said.

## Missing hard drive

**CO** GREELEY — A computer hard drive missing from the University of Northern Colorado contained personal information about thousands of employees and their families, the university has said.

UNC officials said the missing equipment includes the names, birth dates, Social Security and bank account numbers and other information about employees' beneficiaries as well as about 15,790 current and former workers.

The total could be more than 30,000 people, officials said.

University officials said they do not know whether the drive was misplaced or stolen, but campus police have launched a criminal investigation.

## Four-alarm blaze

**NH** CANTERBURY — Firefighters from about a dozen communities worked in frigid temperatures to control a four-alarm fire triggered by a gasoline vapor explosion in a sod farm workshop.

The fire broke out at the Gold Star Farm around 2 p.m., and about 60 firefighters from as far away as Northwood were called to the scene. The fire was contained in about an hour, and it was declared under control just before 5 p.m.

Mutual Aid Fire Chief Richard Wright said the fire destroyed perhaps a quarter to a third of a sprawling storage building that contained equipment and chemicals, including pesticides.

"Basically, we probably saved three-quarters of the building," he said. "We were able to cut it off inside the building."

## Boy reunited with family

**FL** OCALA — An 11-year-old boy who had been taken from his school by a convicted child molester was reunited with his family while dozens of police searched for the kidnapping suspect in Georgia.

The boy was hugged by his mother as he emerged from a police car outside the Marion County sheriff's office.

His father, Ivert Kirkirk, said the boy was surprised by all the attention and looked good after the ordeal. "He said, 'Dad, stop crying,'" Kirkirk said.

Meanwhile, police continued searching for Frederick Fretz, 42, who was believed to be hiding in woods near where the boy was found in northern Georgia, said Maj. Mike Powell of the police department in Emerson, Ga. Powell said there was no indication the boy had been molested.

Stories and photos from wire services



## Tasty lesson

Children eat ice cream in Hattiesburg, Miss., as part of a lesson on the letter "I" given at the Early Encounters preschool. From left, Will Bustin, 4; Dillon Morgan, 4; Walker Matlich, 5; Austin Baker, 5; Caden Stowall, 5; and Payton Brewer, 5.

## FACES

## Reaction takes Alda by surprise

Alan Alda says he's constantly approached by people surprised at his portrayal of a conservative Republican senator on the TV show "The West Wing."



Alda

"I was never asked that when I played a murderer," Alda said.

The NBC drama is setting up a long-running story line in which Alda will run for president against a Democrat portrayed by Jimmy Smits. The winner will be inaugurated on "The West Wing" a year from now.

John Wells, the show's executive producer, said it was not been decided who will win. He said the show will resist an interactive game in which viewers decide the winner because the production schedule needs to be set too far in advance.

## eBay sale to aid tsunami victims

Celebrities including actress Eva Longoria and singer Avril Lavigne will auction off personal items on eBay to raise money for survivors of the South Asian tsunami.

Beginning Feb. 7, 40 items will hit the Web site, including "Desperate Housewives" co-star Longoria's cheerleading uniform and a signed skateboard from rocker Lavigne.

The drive, with proceeds going to Save the Children's Asia Earthquake/Tsunami Relief Fund, is sponsored by US Weekly magazine.

The eBay auction will end Feb. 24.

## Golden girl goes buff

Betty White — yes, that Betty White — goes flesh-toned for a scene in her new TV movie.

During the filming of the Hallmark Channel original movie "Anne's Point," White, 83, and co-star Amy Davidson went bare, sort of, for a grandmother-granddaughter skinny-dipping scene.

"We were not method actors,"

White said in a statement.

"We had little strapless bathing suits on. I mean, we can act like we're naked."



White

## 'Sex' star falls into the Gap — again

Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is falling into more Gap advertisements.

The former "Sex and the City" star has signed on to represent the clothing chain in its spring 2005 marketing campaign — the third straight in which she's been involved. Her spots premier sometime in March.

"I think the Gap is terrifically creative and inspired," said Parker in a statement. "Women will love the clothes for spring."

The campaign will encompass more television and print ads, direct mail and online and in-store marketing elements.

In a previous Gap ad, a cast of digitally added Parker clones trooped around rock star Lenny Kravitz. In another, Parker partied with actor Josh Duhamel and R&B singer Mary J. Blige.



Parker

## Grammer considers a role in politics

Kelsey Grammer has an eye toward politics, but right now he's focused on helping his ailing wife.

His wife, former Playmate model Camille Donatelli, picked up a parasite last year in Italy, said Grammer, who was in Washington for a recent inaugural event.

"My wife was very ill over the summer and we're still kind of recouping her health," Grammer told AP Radio. The 49-year-old actor said he's considering running for political office one day. "I come from a family that is traditionally in service. I've always felt an obligation to spend some time in service to the country."

Will Grammer be on the ballot soon? Not likely.

Grammer, who starred on the popular NBC comedy series "Frasier," says he won't run until "no one really thinks I'm doing it because I'm out of an acting job. The truth is, it would probably be easily another decade, maybe 20 years."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Rankable Ben

## Stiller's charismatic qualities put him among elite performers at the box office

By ROBERT W. WELKOS

Los Angeles Times

It's a chilly weekday evening at the Lakewood Center mall's Pacific Theatres megaplex, situated in a slice of Southern California suburbia, and people are trickling up to the box office window to purchase tickets for the season's blockbuster comedy, Universal Pictures' "Meet the Fockers."

The movie, which as of Sunday had grossed more than \$240 million after five weeks in domestic release, features an all-star cast — including Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and Barbra Streisand — but one of the movie's major draws is the 39-year-old, curly-haired Ben Stiller, who has emerged as a box-office powerhouse.

For the last year, Stiller has been on a roll. Besides "Meet the Fockers," the sequel to 2000's hit comedy "Meet the Parents," Stiller starred in three other successful films in 2004 — "DodgeBall: A True Underdog Story," which raked in \$114.3 million in domestic ticket sales; "Starsky & Hutch," which grossed \$88.2 million domestically; and "Along Came Polly," which took in \$88.1 million domestically. That steady box-office clout has elevated Stiller's paycheck to about \$15 million per picture.

But defining Stiller's appeal isn't easy, even for his audience.

"It just seems like he makes movies out of ordinary stuff," said Jay Reyes, 23, of South Gate, standing near the Lakewood Theatre's ticket window. "Like, who's going to make a movie out of dodge ball?" he chuckled.

"Ben Stiller."

Anna Rice, 46, of Long Beach,

who was also heading into the

theater to see "Meet the Fockers,"

recalled an earlier Stiller

comedy she liked called "Zoolander,"

in which he played Derek

Zoolander, a vacuous male super-

model known for his patented

"look," Blue Steel.

"I know it was corny, but I

thought he was very good in it,"

Rice said. "He is definitely market-

able. How can you pinpoint it? Some

people have it and some don't."

Oscar-winner Hoffman, who

plays Stiller's free-spirited father

in "Meet the Fockers,"

said what impressed him

about Stiller was

that he wasn't looking

for the laugh so much as the irony of

a situation.

"There's a great

dancer in Hoffman try-

ing to get the laugh,"

Hoffman said.

"If you are in a

scene with him, you

could not wish to be

with a better foil,"

Hoffman said.

He will set you up. It's

like basketball. He

doesn't take every

shot, like some bas-

ketball players we

know. He'll pass you

the ball because he's in-

terested in the scene."

Hoffman said it also

surprised him to discover

Stiller had an actor's sensibili-

ty rather than a performer's.

"Usually, people who come from

comedy tend to perform the part

rather than act it," Hoffman said.

"There is a difference. But I real-

ized after working with him that he came from an acting base. The reason is, he was never satisfied, which is kind of a core ingredient to being a good actor."

Owen Wilson — who has worked with Stiller on such films as "The Cable Guy," "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "Meet the Parents," and has a small role in "Meet the Fockers" — said audiences were introduced to Stiller's brand of humor more than a decade ago when Stiller had a comedy show on MTV and later signed with Fox, which aired "The Ben Stiller Show" in the 1992-93 television season. "I think people sort of began catching on to his humor with his [Fox] show," Wilson said. "It didn't have a big audience, but it developed sort of a cult following. And I think he sort of built on that to where people kind of caught up with him."

Stiller doesn't rely on stand-up routines to make people laugh, Wilson said.

"He couldn't be further from a class clown or somebody who is on all the time," Wilson said. "That's not Ben, and that's not his brand of humor."

Jim Carrey, Will Ferrell and Adam Sandler may have bigger marquee names, but Stiller's box-office appeal is growing. It now reaches beyond U.S. shores, where American comedy doesn't easily translate with foreign audiences. As evidence, The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Stiller's blockbuster "Meet the Parents" took in 49.1 percent, or \$164.2 million, of its total ticket sales abroad, while last year's "Along Came Polly" garnered 48.5 percent, or \$83 million, in foreign markets.

That's not to say Stiller hasn't had his share of flops. "Envy," a DreamWorks comedy co-starring Jack Black, grossed \$12.2 million last year, and his pairing with Drew Barrymore in the Miramax comedy "Duplex" sank like a stone after sitting on a shelf for at least a year, grossing a mere \$9.7 million. But when he's in the right vehicle, he reaches all demographics, from teens to adults and both sexes as well, studio executives agree, and his movies are not astronomically expensive ("Fockers," on which Universal partnered with DreamWorks, cost an estimated \$80 million).

Stiller can be funny whether he's doing broad comedy or just delivering a pained expression, said Stacey Snider, head of Universal Pictures.

There's a scene in "Meet the Fockers," Snider said, in which the families are sitting around having drinks outside when Hoffman strays into an inappropriate conversation, and Stiller falls backward out of his chair. "You can't help but laugh when he flips over," Snider said.

Conversely, there's another scene where Hoffman becomes upset after learning that his son had gone duck hunting with father-in-law-to-be De Niro, who is looking on.

"Ben doesn't say anything," Snider says. "He knows he [Jesse] either way."

He makes this great perplexed face and decides it's best to exit. People [in the audience] howl at nothing."



AP

# U.S. blizzard, unrest abroad fuel oil price spikes

BY GEORGE JAHN  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Crude oil futures prices rose Monday after a snowstorm hit the northeastern United States, boosting demand for heating oil.

The potential for further oil output disruption in Nigeria also worked to push up prices, along with concerns about possible new production cuts at an upcoming OPEC meeting and fears of new violence linked to the Iraq election.

Light sweet crude for March delivery rose 55 cents to \$49.08 a barrel in electronic trading by afternoon in Europe ahead of the opening of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Heating oil rose more than 2 cents to \$1.4049.

Brent crude gained 44 cents to \$46.17 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Analysts agreed that wintry conditions affecting the northeastern United States was the main factor moving prices higher

*Analysts agreed that wintry conditions affecting the northeastern United States was the main factor moving prices higher. The United States is the world's largest heating oil market, with 80 percent of it used in the Northeast.*

— a blizzard swept into the region, shut airports and dumped 15 inches of snow on New York.

The United States is the world's largest heating oil market, with 80 percent of it used in the Northeast.

Weather forecaster Meteorlogix said the weather was expected to return to near-normal conditions by Tuesday. But in Paris, analyst Deborah White of SG Securities said markets were looking at today, not tomorrow.

White said that even before the big chill, markets were nervous about the Iraqi elections and the ministerial meeting of the Or-

ganization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna, both on Jan. 30.

Iran on Monday appeared to come out against further production cutbacks, easing some concerns about the Vienna meeting.

OPEC has acted on its decision in December to cut production by 1 million barrels a day to its self-imposed daily target of 27 million barrels. This has contributed to a 20 percent price gain in oil futures.

Insurgents have stepped up attacks in Iraq as the election approaches and sabotage has halted exports from Iraq's northern oil fields around Kirkuk for more than a month. Partially because of the potential for unrest, Iraqi oil minister Thamer

al-Ghadhban said Monday he would not be attending the Vienna meeting.

In some good news from Iraq, a shipping agent said the country had resumed shipping oil from its southern terminals after a weekend stoppage caused by a power failure and strong winds.

But the insurgents — not the weather, has been the biggest problem — Iraqi oil officials say the sabotaging of pipelines has cost the country billions of dollars in export revenue.

Supply fears have also driven oil prices higher. Oil workers in Port Harcourt, a key Nigerian petroleum center, have threatened to go ahead with a strike planned Monday unless two expatriate oil executives blamed for cutting worker benefits heed their call to leave the country.

The strike could cut Nigeria's output by more than 500,000 barrels per day and shut down one of the country's four oil refineries.

Associated Press Writers Wee Sul Lee in Singapore and Rawya Ragueh in Dubai contributed to this report.

A rescue helicopter returns from an avalanche site Sunday in the skiing resort of St. Anton in the Austrian province of Tyrol. A rescue team Monday continued to search for an American snowboarder missing in the avalanche.



## Weekend avalanches kill 5 in Austria

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE  
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Skiers, snowboarders and mountain rescue personnel call them "The White Death" — killer avalanches several football fields wide that can exceed 100 miles per hour and sweep away everything in their path.

Weekend snow slides killed at least five people and seriously injured about 10 others who strayed off-trail in Austria's Alps in search of adventure despite warnings that conditions were ripe for disaster.

Officials had raised Austria's five-step avalanche alert to level four in recent days after a combination of heavy snowfalls, strong winds and subsequent mild temperatures made snow cover unstable and prone to breaking away.

Austrian authorities recently launched a new service that delivers up-to-the-minute avalanche warnings via cell phone SMS text messages. But frustrated emergency workers say technology is useless to those who ignore conventional warnings and take unwarranted risks just to descend mountains atop virgin snow.

"If they lack knowledge and the necessary background information, then it's just carelessness — pure and simple," Roland Matle, an Alpine gendarme helping alert victims to safety, told Austrian television Sunday.

Rescue workers on Monday resumed their search for the body of a 31-year-old American snowboarder missing and presumed dead in an avalanche that killed three Canadians, ages 40, 54 and 57, and seriously injured another a day earlier in the western province of Tyrol. The victims' names and hometowns were not released.

The missing American was one of four U.S. citizens in their 30s; the three others managed to claw their way out of chest-deep snow.

The Canadians were in a group of four — two married couples — on a ski holiday at the popular resort of St. Anton.

The avalanche was estimated to have spanned the length of three football fields laid end to end, and struck at an elevation of about 7,550 feet in an off-trail area popular with thrill-seekers looking for deep, untouched powder.

Experts regularly warn that skiing or snowboarding off-piste in unstable snow can be dangerous and triggers many of the hundreds of slides that in some years have claimed dozens of lives in Austria.

Officials monitoring avalanche conditions in the Alps issued a statement Sunday warning people anew not to venture off trails known to be safe, to avoid skiing or snowboarding alone and to approach all areas "with the greatest respect."

They also urged people to wear ava-

lanche transmitters, which emit a high-frequency signal that can save rescuers precious minutes to locate victims buried in heavy snow and dig them out before they suffocate.

A transmitter helped rescue workers on Sunday swiftly locate a snowboarder buried in an avalanche in the resort of Zell am See, officials said.

Several skiers managed to dig themselves free of other avalanches Sunday in the provinces of Salzburg and Tyrol, police said. Rescuers barely reached one man in time and revived him at the scene, and helicopters brought three others to hospitals for treatment, Austrian radio reported.

On Saturday, a huge avalanche struck a party of five Germans snowboarding in the Gargellen region of the southwestern province of Vorarlberg, killing one and critically injuring two others.

Officials on Sunday identified the dead snowboarder as a 25-year-old from Stuttgart who held joint U.S.-German nationality.

Anna Pirschner, an official with Salzburg's mountain rescue service who examined the risks skiers and snowboarders take in a new study for the University of Innsbruck, said relatively few take a safe and humble approach to confronting the brute force of nature.

"People must follow the principle, 'The only thing I know is that I know nothing,'" she said.

### Afghan whooping cough

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.N. and Afghan medics were airlifted to a remote province in central Afghanistan to vaccinate children against whooping cough after 25 youngsters died of the infectious disease, officials said Monday.

The U.S. military said the 10 medics were flown into Daykundi province Sunday on a coalition helicopter with a small quick-reaction force to provide security. They were equipped with antibiotics for 2,000 people and vaccinations for 2,500 people.

Mohammed Sarwar Danish, who is minister for justice and a former governor of Daykundi, said that 25 children had died of whooping cough in Ghizab district. It wasn't clear when the children died.

### Tribes clash in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kikuyu and Maasai tribal fighters armed with machetes and spears clashed over scarce water supplies in central Kenya, killing at least 14 people in two days of fighting, police said Monday.

Thousands of people fed the fighting that broke out Saturday in Mai Mahiu, about 37 miles northwest of Nairobi, said police spokesman Jasper Ombati. Scores were injured, he said.

The fighting started Sunday when Maasai herders destroyed pipes used to pump water from a river into farms belonging to Kikuyu. In retaliation, Kikuyu farmers attacked the Maasai, sparking the clashes.

### Prince's big travel costs

LONDON — Buckingham Palace on Monday deflected Prince Andrew's travel costs after a government report detailed his use of public money for journeying to official engagements.

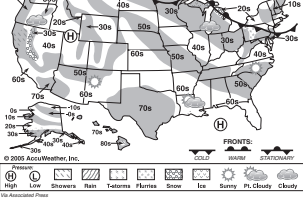
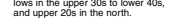
The National Audit Office, the government's spending watchdog, published figures which showed that Queen Elizabeth II's son — who is also known as the Duke of York — once spent nearly \$5,600 for a 30-mile lunch trip by helicopter.

"The National Audit Office has totally exonerated the Duke from inappropriately use of public funds in his use of transport on official occasions," a spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The NAO report found that in a 12-month period between 2003 and 2004, Andrew ran up travel costs of \$591,000. Of that, 52 percent was spent on four foreign trips undertaken at the government's request.

From The Associated Press





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# Horoscope

The full moon in creative Leo cheers on the spirit of play. One definition for the word "creative" comes from the Encarta World Dictionary: making imaginative use of limited resources available. Keep in mind that it's the limits that give us the impetus to imagine and bring new solutions into existence. The full moon pours forth possibilities.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(January 25).** The thing or person you're waiting for is waiting for you, too. So stop waiting, and get active in your pursuit now! The next six weeks bring impressive progress in your personal life and put a sheen on your social connections. Adding one terrific person — possibly a Capricorn or Aries — to your circle will open an entire world of adventure.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You rank — it's obvious to everyone around you. There's a man in your realm who desperately wants your respect. You may have to walk cautiously through his place to avoid stepping on the names he'll drop.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The social arena begs for your input. You have something magical to add. You'll need fodder to start the conversation, though, so delve into the day's headlines for some icebreakers. A new love is in the crowd.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Friends could mistake you for their therapist. At a certain point, you have to draw the line, or your energy is sucked into the void of unsolvable problems (only because some problems are not yours to solve).

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Loved ones require your understanding more than ever. So what if you feel under-rehearsed or out of your league? Don't let fear stop you. You can deliver the goods exactly as needed.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Someone is putting on a performance meant to impress you or win your

business. You'll probably be underwhelmed by your experience, but you can see the potential for growth there, too.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You may feel alone on your path, but you're not. You've got key people on your side. What you know, you know well. You'll find love while learning about what you don't know.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The puzzles you face today are exactly the kind you usually figure out quickly — except these problems have no foreseeable solution, and you must act on faith. Accept that frustration is a normal part of business.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

The one you're interested in will never know unless you make a noticeable effort. Be funny. Risk being embarrassed. Tonight, quality family time makes you feel centered, connected and whole.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You understand the importance of building and maintaining your own life. You know better than to look to someone else to provide it for you. As the song goes, "God bless the child that's got his own."

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Concern about doing the wrong thing will undermine the integrity of your creative life. Be bold, even outrageous. You'll be happy later that you played by your own rules.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

All things seem possible, even the impossible ones. You don't mind at all that love relationships ebb and flow; respect is what you're after, and you get it by giving it. Sagittarius is favored for love.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Killer career choices involve more than doing what you think will move you up the ladder. Delivering something totally unique is the secret to success. If others are already doing it, you shouldn't.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



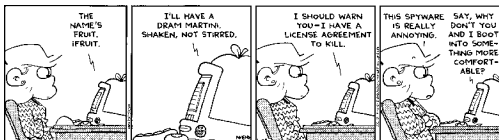
## Better or Worse



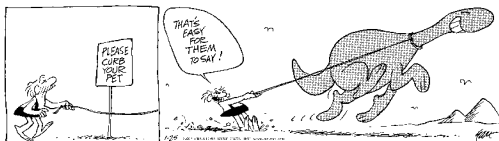
## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



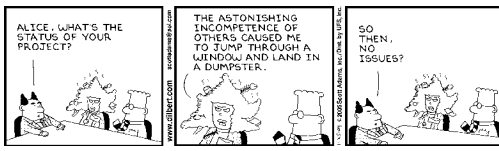
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



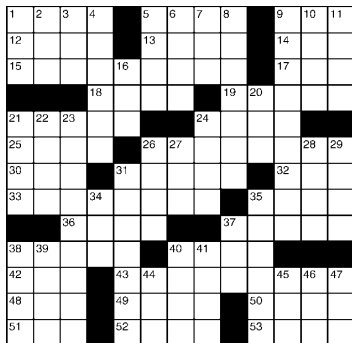
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 News article
- 5 Tel —
- 9 Pirouette pivot
- 12 Guy
- 13 Old Italian bread
- 14 In need of repair
- 15 Sweaters without buttons
- 17 Peruke
- 18 Spring event
- 19 California resort lake
- 21 Fills fully
- 24 Give the ax
- 25 Earsplitting
- 26 Sweet-smelling
- 30 Director Lee
- 31 Conflagration
- 32 Pair
- 33 Pattern
- 35 Raised ridge
- 36 Masticate
- 37 Big dipper?
- 38 Sadat's co-Nobelist
- 40 Have on
- 42 Melody
- 43 Broad-winged insect
- 48 Support system?
- 49 13-Across' replacement
- 50 Ontario neighbor
- 51 Archery-bow word

## Down

- 1 Devil
- 2 Greek cross
- 3 Right angle
- 4 Dissolved
- 5 Part of T.A.E.
- 6 Talk show, with "The"
- 7 Like some vhs.
- 8 Trace
- 9 Blond
- 10 Hodgepodge
- 11 Advantage
- 16 Reactions of surprise
- 20 Timetable
- 21 Venetian blind piece
- 22 Top-notch
- 23 Ballplayer, father-in-law of Faith Hill
- 24 Disconcert
- 25 Imperfection
- 27 Muppet Rizzo, e.g.
- 28 Zero
- 29 Carry
- 31 Kitchen appliance
- 34 — Beta Kappa
- 35 Cautioned
- 37 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 38 Infant
- 39 Green acres
- 40 Distortion
- 41 Hollywood clashers
- 44 Sara of "Less Than Perfect"
- 45 To and —
- 46 Ignited
- 47 "Undeniably"

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## I-25

## CRYPTOQUIP

QO WEDKIA: ELJ'Z CLFE  
 FLLUA ICWJVA WMLTJE  
 DAJEKJV QWICKJAU. ZCAO

WMA ILKJKDMLTU.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT SOME SEASIDE RESTAURANTS, THE BATHROOM DOORS MIGHT SAY "BUOYS" AND "GULLS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals O

# Ways to support a grieving mother

**Dear Abby:** "Caring Friend in California" was at a loss about whether to hold a baby shower for her friend, whose baby wasn't expected to make it through the gestation period. You advised her that rather than hold a shower, her friends should stay close and provide willing ears and shoulders to cry on.

A dear friend of my daughter's faced the same circumstances. We knew that if her baby survived delivery, it would be only a short time until the child was gone. What we did was to create a "memory box." We included a camera to take pictures of the baby, and a smaller version of a baby book to hold the footprints, hand prints, a lock of hair and, of course, the photos. We also bought the infant a cross as she was immediately baptized.

It gave the parents something

to remember — a special memory of their baby. It wouldn't hurt for "Caring Friend" to contact the hospital as well, as it may have something already set up for people facing these circumstances.

**Dear Abby**



— **Dore in Minnesota**  
**Dear Hope:** Those are wonderful suggestions. A woman named Michelle wrote me from Las Vegas to say that the March of Dimes has a bereavement packet that could be helpful. In addition to information regarding the loss, it contains a memory book for the lack of hair and/or footprint. The packet can be obtained from local March of Dimes offices. Read on:

**Dear Abby:** My heart breaks for the friend who will soon lose the child she has grown to love. I have known many mothers

and fathers who have lost children very young (even through miscarriage), and each one has treasured any reminder of the child they lost. Many hospitals have programs run by volunteers that provide a blanket and a tiny hat to be made available to the grieving parents. "Caring Friend" should give her friend the option of choosing gentle reminders of her love and strength in this time of need, or a small, quiet ceremony of her love to make things easier for her. My guess is she'll choose both. I know I would.

— **Mother of Four in Virginia**  
**Dear Mother of Four:** Thank you for the input. I received a stack of letters from readers echoing your sentiments and offering suggestions.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**TOORB**

**GHILT**

**POUDIM**

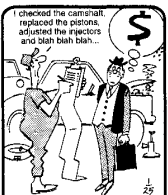
**MOOGLY**

**A: A** " " " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: **POKE** **INSET** **LUNACY** **FIESTA**  
 Answer: An indifferent student can do this in astronomy class — **TAKE UP "SPACE"**

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



WHAT THE FAST-TALKING MECHANIC SEEMED TO BE —

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Don't be in a rush to be kissed

**Dear Annie:** I just came back from my eighth-grade school trip. All of my friends were kissed, or they made out with guys they met. I have a really good friend, "Nate," and we have a lot of fun just talking, and I don't want to push him into anything. But I feel really pressured to get physical with him because all my friends have done that stuff.

**Annie's Mailbox**



**Dear Annie:** Six months ago, my in-laws moved into a local senior apartment complex. At the time, my father-in-law gave all his tools to my husband, and we placed them in our garage. The condition was that Dad would be able to come to our garage and use his tools.

Well, Annie, my father-in-law is in my garage EVERY day. Worse, my husband left a key to our house in the garage and Dad often pops in while I am still asleep. Dad also thinks he is a personal escort for anyone who visits. Even the utility workers cannot enter without my father-in-law, and he insists they enter from the basement, which means I have to go down there and lock it after they leave, since Dad never remembers. I am usually the only person at home when Dad drops by. I feel like I have a baby-sitter. My husband is somewhat understanding, and we are working with some non-profit groups to see if we can

get them interested in my father-in-law's mechanical talents, but if that doesn't work out, my husband refuses to do anything that would limit his father's access to our home.

I love my father-in-law dearly and don't want to hurt his feelings or take him away from his tools. Do you have any other suggestions?

— **Ready To Burst Daughter-in-Law**

**Dear Ready To Burst:** Your husband should tell his father that he is welcome to use the garage, but not the house. If he isn't willing to do this, approach your father-in-law and say, "Dad, I'm glad you feel comfortable here, but I'd rather you give me some notice before entering the house. Sometimes I'm not dressed. I'm going to keep the deadbolt locked until I am ready for company."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



**"I don't know where the time goes either, Grandma, but I'll keep an eye out for it."**

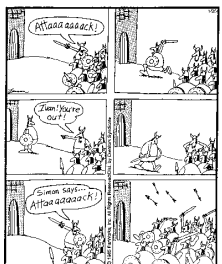


Domis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



...AND THIS IS WHERE THE DEFENSE RESTS."





# Suns snap out of slump

## Sehn Nash, Stoudemire

The Associated Press

Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns are back to full speed.

Playing for the second time after missing 3½ games because of thigh and back injuries, Nash had a season-high 30 points to help the Suns snap a six-game losing streak with a 113-105 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Sunday night.

The All-Star guard was 5-for-6 from three-point range and had nine assists.

"It didn't feel like a season high," Nash said. "I just kind of picked my spots and had a really good rhythm from three. It was nice to make some shots because we didn't really have our legs under us to play our best."

## NBA roundup

Amare Stoudemire led the Suns with 33 points on 13-for-16 shooting. He made his first eight shots and was 13-for-14 before missing two in a row in the fourth quarter.

"It seemed kind of unnatural for it to be on a six-game losing streak this year," Stoudemire said. "But I knew it was a matter of time for us to get back to where we were. We've just got to stay focused, and keep up the good work."

Vince Carter scored 32 points, and Jason Kidd had 23 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the Nets, who did not arrive in Phoenix until 10 a.m. because of the blizzard in the Northeast.

They had their season-best, three-game winning streak snapped in the first of five in a row on the road.

In Nash's first game back, he had 16 points and 13 assists in Phoenix's 128-123 overtime loss to San Antonio on Friday night.

You can see the difference in our team with Jason back, and the people in Phoenix have seen what the Suns are with or without Steve Nash," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "Those guys, they're priceless. They just make everybody better."

Quentin Richardson was 5-for-10 from three-point range and scored 20 points for Phoenix, which will open a six-game trip Tuesday night in New York. Joe Smith added 15 points, and Shawn Marion had 10 points and 13 rebounds.

The Suns (32-10) were 15-for-30 on three-pointers. They made five three-pointers, two apiece by Nash and Richardson, in a 19-0 outburst that erased a five-point deficit and made it 76-64 with 6:02 to go in the third quarter.

"They have shooters everywhere," Kidd said. "In the third quarter, they caught fire and then we, they separated themselves, but we didn't quit."

Jim Jackson scored two points on 1-for-3 shooting and drew five fouls in 17 minutes in his first game for Phoenix. He was where since Houston traded him to New Orleans on Dec. 26. He re-



Suns forward Amare Stoudemire shoots over Nets forward Nenad Krstic for two of his 33 points as Phoenix ended a six-game skid.

fused to report to the Hornets, and was traded to Phoenix on Friday for reserves Casey Jacobsen, Maciej Lampe and Jason Vroman. The Suns also got a 2005 second-round draft pick.

**Spurs 103, Kings 73:** Tim Duncan had 23 points and 13 rebounds, and San Antonio emphatically snapped Sacramento's six-game winning streak, handing the Kings their worst home loss in more than seven years.

Tony Massenburg had a season-high 16 points against his former teammates to help the NBA-leading Spurs improve to 34-9.

Mike Bibby scored 13 points for the Kings, who lost for the first time since acquiring Cuttino Mobley two weeks ago from Orlando. Chris Webber played just 13 minutes because of an ankle injury.

**Bucks 101, Knicks 96:** At New York, Desmond Mason scored 22 points to lead Milwaukee in Herby Williams' first game since he took over the Knicks Saturday after Lenny Wilkens' resignation.

Seattle shot 59 percent (38-64) from the floor to snap a two-game losing skid. Carlos Boozer led Utah with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

**Raptors 103, Bobcats 92:** At Toronto, Jalen Rose scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter to help Toronto lead Charlotte's eighth straight loss.

Morris Peterson added 26 points for the Raptors. Primoz Brezec had 19 points and tied a career high with 12 rebounds for the Bobcats.

zone defense by Michael Redd kept Milwaukee up 96-89. Stephen Marbury had 33 points for New Jersey in its 10th loss in 11 games.

**Mavericks 95, Nuggets 93:** At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored nine of his 33 points in the final five minutes including a three-point play with 17.9 seconds left.

Michael added 17 points for the Mavericks. Kenyon Martin led Denver with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

**Heat 97, Hornets 68:** Dwyane Wade had 18 points and seven assists, and Miami built a 25-point, first-quarter lead on the way to an easy victory at home.

Miami's 56-25 halftime lead matched the franchise's largest after two quarters — and marked the lowest scoring first half in Hornets history; Charlotte had 27 at halftime in Minnesota on Nov. 9, 1990.

**SuperSonics 122, Jazz 105:** Rashard Lewis scored 36 points, barely missing a season high, and Antonio Daniels had 24 points and eight assists for the host SuperSonics.

Seattle shot 59 percent (38-64) from the floor to snap a two-game losing skid. Carlos Boozer led Utah with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

**Raptors 103, Bobcats 92:** At Toronto, Jalen Rose scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter to help Toronto lead Charlotte's eighth straight loss.

Morris Peterson added 26 points for the Raptors. Primoz Brezec had 19 points and tied a career high with 12 rebounds for the Bobcats.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	21	—
Boston	17	22	1½
Toronto	18	24	1½
New York	17	23	2½
New Jersey	15	25	3½

Southeast Division		Pct	GB
Miami	20	17	4½
Orlando	22	16	5½
Atlanta	8	29	19½
Cleveland	24	15	—

Central Division		Pct	GB
Indiana	20	51	4½
Chicago	17	23	—
Milwaukee	15	24	8

Western Conference		Pct	GB
Southwest Division		Pct	GB
San Antonio	24	79	—
Dallas	27	19	—
Memphis	23	58	10½
New Orleans	7	17	15½

Northwest Division		Pct	GB
Seattle	26	71	—
Minnesota	21	55	7
Denver	17	43	11½
Portland	14	26	18½
Pacific Division	14	23	11½

Phoenix		Pct	GB
Phoenix	32	10	—
L.A. Lakers	27	16	—
L.A. Clippers	22	40	13
Golden State	12	20	19½

Toronto, Charlotte		Pct	GB
Toronto	10	29	—
Dallas	9	30	—
Phoenix	9	31	—
Seattle	12	24	—
San Antonio	10	24	—

Monday's games		Pct	GB
Miami at Philadelphia	10	24	—
Washington at Cleveland	10	24	—
Detroit at Minnesota	10	24	—
Atlanta at Houston	10	24	—
San Antonio at Portland	10	24	—
Dallas at L.A. Clippers	10	24	—

Tuesday's games		Pct	GB
Boston at Charlotte	10	24	—
Phoenix at New York	10	24	—
New Jersey at Atlanta	10	24	—
Denver at Chicago	10	24	—
Seattle at L.A. Lakers	10	24	—

Wednesday's games		Pct	GB
Miami at Toronto	10	24	—
San Antonio at Dallas	10	24	—
Indiana at Detroit	10	24	—
Philadelphia at Washington	10	24	—
Denver at Boston	10	24	—
Atlanta at Cleveland	10	24	—
Houston at New Orleans	10	24	—
Phoenix at Milwaukee	10	24	—
Seattle at Utah	10	24	—
Dallas at Portland	10	24	—
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers	10	24	—
New Jersey at Golden State	10	24	—

Saturday		Pct	GB
Charlotte	10	24	—
Raptors	10	24	—

Charlotte		Pct	GB
Charlotte	10	24	—
Raptors	10	24	—

Toronto		Pct	GB
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Raptors	10	24	—

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Three-Point Goals		Pct	GB
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Raptors	10	24	—

Three-Point Goals		Pct	GB
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Raptors	10	24	—

Three-Point Goals		Pct	GB
Three-Point Goals	10	24	—
Raptors	10	24	—

Three-Point Goals		Pct	GB
Three-Point Goals	10	24	—
Raptors	10	24	—

3-11-2-8, Songaila 3-5 0-0 6, Martin 1-5 2-4				
House 2-6 0-0 4, Barnes 1-2 0-0 2, Bradley 1-				
0-0 2. Totals 27-72 18-25 73				
<b>San Antonio</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>21-10</b>
<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19-7</b>
Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 4-11				
(Bowen 2-6, Udrih 1-2, Barry 1-3, Ginobili 0-2)				
Wilks 0-1, Parker 0-2, Brown 0-2). Sacramento				

# Venus, Myskina, Dementieva eliminated

## Hewitt wins in five sets despite injury; Roddick, Davenport also advance

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Venus Williams lost to Alicia Molik of Australia 7-5, 7-6 (3) Monday in the fourth round of the Australian Open, extending her Grand Slam drought and keeping her from joining sister Serena in the quarterfinals.

Williams was seeking her fifth Grand Slam title and first since winning the 2001 U.S. Open. She reached five finals after that, but hasn't made it past the quarterfinals of a major since injuring an abdominal muscle in mid-2003.

Molik, the Olympic bronze medalist last year in Athens, will face No. 1 seed and 2000 champion Lindsay Davenport, who polished off Karolina Sprem 6-2, 6-2 earlier Monday. It's the first time that Molik, who stretched her winning streak to 12 matches, has reached the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam. "This is a huge feat, I beat Venus," Molik said. "I beat her playing my tennis, and I didn't wait for her to make mistakes, and that's something I can be pretty proud of."

She broke the eighth-seeded Williams at love to finish off the first set, then fought off five break points in the second.

Both players held to force a tiebreaker, where Molik showed her best, jumping to a 4-0 lead, then falling again on a running forehand that she netted. She shook it off and finished off the match when Williams weakly hit a forehand into the net.

Molik refused to wilt under Williams' power attack, firing seven aces and other winners that kissed the lines.

"I couldn't quite get a handle on what was going wrong," Williams said. "Normally if I'm playing 5 percent better, I'd win."

Molik became the first Australian woman to reach the quarters since Anne Minter 17 years ago. Fellow Aussie Lleyton Hewitt also advanced Monday, overcoming a sore right hip to beat unseeded Rafael Nadal 7-5, 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory.

Trying to finish points quickly to limit his movement, Hewitt committed five consecutive errors in the fourth set after going ahead 4-0 while holding a 3-2 lead.

He then proved that he deserved his reputation as a battler.

Hewitt got to a tiebreaker and won by punctuating the point with his trademark fist pumps and shouts of "Come on!"

That got the fans roaring and

left the 18-year-old Nadal shaking his head.

Being pushed to five sets seemed to take some of the steam out of Nadal. He asked for a massage on his left thigh after Hewitt broke twice and ran off a 3-0 lead in the deciding fifth set.

While serving for the match at 5-2, Hewitt had a double-fault and two unforced errors to give Nadal a pair of break points. He fought back to deuce, double-faulted on his first match point and squandered a second, then finished with an ace and a backhand from Nadal that sailed just long after a petty rally.

Hewitt dropped to his knees in celebration as the crowd roared.

"This crowd is second to none,"

said Hewitt, who also rallied for Davis Cup victories on the same court. "I was hurting a little bit in the third set. You try to get all of the negative thoughts out of your mind."

Hewitt added that the injury, first sustained at a warmup tournament in Sydney, should not affect him in his next match, when he will face the winner of an all Argentinean match between No. 6 Guillermo Coria and No. 9 David Nalbandian.

After three consecutive letties, Andy Roddick struggled with the serve of right-handed German Philipp Kohlschreiber. But the second-seeded American smacked 15 aces and overcame a second-set letdown to reach the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-6 (8), 6-1 win.

"I think I actually had a little trouble getting used to a serve coming from a righty, as weird as that sounds," he said.

"Took me a little while to get on it."

He'll face another right-hander next, 25th-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, who beat No. 12 Guillermo Canas 6-3, 6-4, 6-3. Earlier in the tournament, Davenport eliminated No. 7 Tim Henman.

Roddick allowed the 102nd-ranked Kohlschreiber only one break opportunity while he figured out his righty serve. He was erratic in the second set, doubling his number of unforced errors to 12 and throwing his racket to the court after sending a forehand long.

"I don't think I hit the ball as clean as I did in the first three matches," he said. "I just felt like I was fighting it a little bit more. I'm not too concerned. The good thing is I don't feel like I had my best day, and we're here talking about a three-set win."

Along with Venus Williams,



Venus Williams, the eighth seed, reacts in frustration during her fourth-round match against 10th-seeded Alicia Molik in the Australian Open at Melbourne Park on Monday. Molik won the match, 7-5, 7-6.



Third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt overcame a hip injury and a 2-1 sets deficit to beat Rafael Nadal in five sets, 7-5, 3-6, 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Anastasia Myskina, the French Open champion, and No. 6 Elena Dementieva, the runner-up at the French and U.S. Opens, were eliminated.

Myskina and Dementieva were among seven Russians to make it to the round of 16, but only Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova and U.S. Open titlist Svetlana Kuznetsova reached the quarterfinals.

They will face each other on Tuesday, when men's No. 1 seed Roger Federer will try to keep his

25-match winning streak alive against four-time Australian Open winner Andre Agassi, seeded eighth.

Myskina had 45 unforced errors in her 6-4, 6-2 loss to 19th-seeded Nathalie Dechy.

"I couldn't focus during the match, I lost a lot of easy balls," Myskina said. "I think I have to forget this match."

Dementieva led 12th-seeded Patty Schnyder by a set and two breaks before losing 6-7 (6), 7-6 (4), 6-2.

### Tennis scoreboard

#### Australian Open

##### Monday

At Melbourne Park  
Melbourne, Australia  
Purse: \$145 million (Grand Slam)  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

##### Singles

##### Men

##### Fourth Round

Andy Roddick (2), United States, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-1.  
Nikolay Davydenko (26), Russia, def. Guillermo Canas (12), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Lleyton Hewitt (3), Australia, def. Rafael Nadal, Spain, 7-5, 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

##### Women

##### Fourth Round

Patty Schnyder (12), Switzerland, def. Elena Dementieva (6), Russia, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Karolina Sprem (13), Croatia, 6-2, 6-2.

Nathalie Dechy (19), France, def. Anastasia Myskina (3), Russia, 6-4, 6-2.

Alicia Molik (10), Australia, def. Venus Williams (8), United States, 7-5, 7-6 (3).

##### Men

##### Third Round

Michael Llodra (2), France, def. Fabrice Santoro (6), France, def. Wesley Moodie, South Africa, and Nenad Zimonjic, Serbia-Montenegro, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Tomas Berdych, Czech Republic, and Andrei Pavel, Romania, def. Ashley Fisher, Australia, and Travis Parrott, United States, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-3.

Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, and Mats Wilander (4), Belarus, def. Simon Aspelin, Sweden, and Todd Perry (16), Australia, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (3).

##### Women

##### Third Round

Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Dinara Safina, Russia, def. Chang Chiu-chung, Taiwan, and Rika Fujiwara, Japan, 6-2, 6-3.

Gabriela Navratilova and Michaela Pastikova, Czech Republic, def. Janet Lee, Taiwan, and Peng Shuai, China, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.

Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, and Nicole Pietrangeli (16), Australia, def. Marion Bartoli, France, and Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

##### Mixed

##### Second Round

Wayne and Cara Black (2), Zimbabwe, def. Rick Leach, United States, and Virginia Ruess Pancuzzi, Spain, 7-1, 7-6 (4), 7-5 (9).

# Woods ends a drought in bizarre Buick Invitational

The Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO** — Tiger Woods won't get any style points for winning the Buick Invitational.

Usually an intimidating presence on the back nine, he was the guy having to scramble to make pars just to keep pace with Tom Lehman. Woods had two chances to remove all the suspense at Torrey Pines, and he responded by missing a 6-foot birdie putt at No. 17, and whiffing on a 2-iron approach to the 18th.

All that mattered in the fading sunlight Sunday was putting his hands on the trophy.

"A great win," Woods said after a 4-under 68 on the South course at Torrey Pines, giving him a three-shot victory over Lehman, Luke Donald and hard-luck Charles Howell III. "It was a battle out there."

The only thing that looked vaguely familiar was Woods smiling wide on the 18th green, hugging his caddy and posing with an oversized check — \$864,000 that put him atop the PGA Tour money list.

Everything else was as bizarre as the fact that seeped quickly across Torrey Pines and reduced visibility so much that the Buick Invitational nearly had its first Monday finish in the 53-year history.

How strange was it? Woods figured he would need a 32 on the back nine to win. He shot 35 and won by three.

But a shot so badly that it actually turned out to be good.

With a one-shot lead on the par-5 18th and Lehman already having led and Woods tried to hit a 2-iron from 240 yards over the pond to the right side of the green.

"I absolutely whiffed it," Woods said.

Lucky him.

## Golf roundup

He fanned it so much to the right that it found a narrow strip of fairway just right of the pond. Lehman needed a birdie to have any chance of a playoff, but instead hit his sand wedge short. He was lucky it hung up on the hill instead of going into the water.

Woods then played a pitch above the hole, hopeful it would spin back down toward the cup. It didn't, leaving him a slippery 18-footer. He wanted to die the ball into the cup, but rapped it too hard. But the putt was on the right line, and it dove into the cup for a birdie that ended an odd tournament.

Lehman summed it up best. "He whipped the field playing lousy," Lehman said. "I've given a lot of credit."

Woods finished at 16-under 272, his first come-from-behind victory in the final round since the 2001 NEC Invitational, and his first stroke-play title on the PGA Tour since the 2003 American Express Championship. His only victory last year was the Match Play Championship.

Even so, Woods needed some help.

First to his defense were those crazy golfing gods, who conspired against Howell. He was at 14 under when his sand wedge from 90 yards into the 18th green was perfect.

Too perfect, it turns out. The ball landed in the bottom of the cup, ricocheted out and went into the pond, turning an eagle into a bogey. Howell took off his cap and stared in disbelief.

"I knew I hit the shot perfect," Howell said after his 72. "And then to hit the hole and go into the



**Tiger Woods celebrates as he birdies the 18th hole to win the Buick Invitational, his first stroke-play title on the PGA Tour since 2003.**

water, I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Obviously, it's a crazy game."

Donald was a model of consistency, giving himself a birdie putt on every hole through No. 13 and building a one-shot lead. He had control of the tournament until two bad swings. The first one was a 6-iron that went over the 14th green and into a hazard, leading to double bogey. Then he pulled

his tee shot on No. 17 into the bushes and had to scramble for a bogey, leaving him at 73 and three shots behind.

The final gift came from Lehman.

He was trying to become the first active Ryder Cup captain since Jack Nicklaus (1986 Masters) to win on tour. He played 32 holes on Sunday, and had no complaints about the first 30.

But from the middle of the 17th fairway, with an 8-iron in his hand and tied for Woods at 15 under, he caught a plucked lie in the bunker. His shot hit the flag, but that only slowed it enough to leave him a 12-footer, and Lehman missed. Then he botched the sand wedge on No. 18, running his record to 0-7 with at least a share of the 54-hole lead, dating to the 1996 Tour Championship.

"I'm ticked I didn't win," Lehman said after his 73.

Even Woods realized in victory that it's a crazy game.

"I hit it great at Mercedes and lost. I didn't hit it good here and won," Woods said. "It comes down to making putting. I hit it close enough this week. I had some opportunities to make putts, and I did."

## Quigley beats Watson in MasterCard playoff

**KAUPELEHU-KONA, Hawaii** — Dana Quigley made a 3-foot par putt on the third playoff hole and beat a faltering Tom Watson on Sunday to win the season-opening MasterCard Championship for the second time in three years.

Watson, who led after the first two rounds, made a bogey after he hit into the lava behind the 17th green at Hualalai Golf Club.

Quigley, who also missed the green long, putted past the hole and made the comeback attempt. He closed with a 6-under 66, but his three-putt from the fringe on the final hole of regulation allowed Watson to move into a tie at 18-under 198.

Watson started the round with a three-stroke lead, but missed two 4-foot putts for par on the back nine for his only two bogeys in regulation, closing with a 2-under 70.

# Huskies 'tough out' the grind vs. rival Cougars

The Associated Press

**SEATTLE** — The Washington Huskies didn't look forward to playing grind-it-out Washington State.

"It was something we're definitely not used to," Jamaal Williams said. "You just have to tough it out."

Nate Robinson scored 13 points and the No. 10 Huskies moved into a tie for the Pac-10 lead with a 66-48 victory over the Cougars on Sunday.

Williams and freshman Joel Smith came off the bench to each score 10 points for the Huskies (16-2, 6-1), who won their 18th straight at home and tied a school record with their 12th straight Pac-10 home win.

The Huskies are tied for first with Arizona (6-1), which beat Oregon State 92-83 on Saturday night.

It wasn't a classic Washington offensive performance. The Huskies shot a season-worst 35.9 percent from the field (23-of-64) and 3-for-13 from three-point range, but coach Dick Bennett's

## College basketball

ball-control Cougars had a lot to do with that.

The purple-clad student section didn't appreciate the Cougars' deliberate, slowdown tactics, chanting, "Boring, boring, boring," in the second half.

Washington came into the game averaging 89.4 points a game, tops in the Pac-10 and second in the nation. The Huskies had their lowest point total of the season. They have scored 100 or more points in four games this season.

Huskies coach Lorenzo Romar still felt good afterward, though.

"The fact that we were able to win by 18 points despite it not being an uptempo game makes you feel pretty good," he said. "If we would do this every time we play them, we wouldn't have to be uptempo."

Williams, a transfer from New Mexico who has been a major contributor for the Huskies this sea-

son, said Washington's players knew what they were in for.

"We didn't think we'd have a 90-point game unless something miraculous happened," he said. "We had to play a slow game and execute our halfcourt offense."

Washington will be in Tucson Thursday night to play Arizona in a showdown game. The Huskies beat the Wildcats three times last season.

"We didn't look forward to this game," the Huskies' Brandon Roy said. "Now we get to play Arizona and they're a team that takes quick shots like we do. They get going up and down."

Thomas Kelati led Washington State (8-8, 3-4) with 12 points.

Washington led 31-18 at halftime. The Huskies took the lead for good early on a three-point play by Williams, starting a 14-0 run that Tre Simmons capped with a three to put them ahead 18-5.

That was the first of four 13-point leads for the Huskies in the opening half.

Mike Jensen opened the sec-

ond half with a three-pointer for Washington in the first minute and, after a three-pointer by Derrick Low of Washington State, Robinson made a three-pointer and Will Conroy followed with a layup after a steal under the basket to put the Huskies ahead 39-21.

Washington State shot just 19-for-59 (37.5 percent).

Washington beat Washington State for the 11th consecutive time at home. The last time the Cougars won in Seattle was Jan. 29, 1994. The teams play again in Pullman Feb. 19.

**Army 63, Navy 43:** At West Point, N.Y., Matt Bell scored 20 points to help Army snap an eight-game losing streak Sunday and earn its largest victory over arch-rival Navy in 35 years. Grant Carter had 11 points for Army (3-14, 1-4 Patriot League) and Cory Simning had 12.

Matt Fanning scored 17 points for Navy (4-14, 0-5), which suffered its seventh loss in a row.

Navy coach Billy Lange suffered the worst loss ever by a Mid-



**Nate Robinson scored 13 points as No. 10 Washington moved into a tie for the Pac-10 lead with a 66-48 victory over Washington State on Sunday in Seattle.**

shipmen coach in his debut against Army.

Bell scored 11 of his 20 points in the second half as Army outscored the Midshipmen 31-19 in the final 20 minutes.

# Delgado playing the field

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Mets and Carlos Delgado resumed talks Monday, a day after the free-agent first baseman left the team's deadline for a deal pass.

The Texas Rangers withdrew their offer Sunday, and Delgado's agent, David Sloane, said the Mets had pulled out, too, although the team said it was awaiting a response. Sloane and the Mets talked again Monday, two people with knowledge of the talks said on the condition of anonymity.

Florida and Baltimore also were trying to sign Delgado.

While the field for Delgado narrowed, former Mets captain John Franco made his decision, agreeing Sunday to a \$700,000, one-year contract with the Houston Astros. And the Yankees added a backup infielder, agreeing to a \$600,000, one-year contract with Rey Sanchez, a deal subject to his passing a physical and finalization of contract language.

On Sunday night, after a conversation among Sloane, Mets Chief Operating Officer Jeff Wilpon and General Manager Omar Minaya, New York was unsure where it stood.

"Jeff and I spoke to Mr. Sloane tonight, and we let him know we were trying to get a resolution on this matter this evening," Minaya said in a statement Sunday. "He said he would convey those thoughts to Carlos, and he would call us back after speaking with Carlos. We have yet to receive that call."

With the Rangers, where Delgado would play became an issue Sunday.

"From the first conversation with the Texas Rangers, we made it crystal clear that Carlos Delgado had no interest in being a full-time DH," Sloane said. "If we had 25 conversations with the Texas Rangers, we were told in 24 of those that the question of him playing first base was no issue. Earlier today, we were told that is changing and that 75 per-

cent of his at-bats, should he choose to sign with the Texas Rangers, would come as a DH."

"After three months of negotiations, we were given less than five hours to tell them yes or no, to make a decision that affects not only the rest of Carlos Delgado's baseball career, but the rest of his life."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks met with Delgado in Puerto Rico and offered a \$45 million, four-year contract.

"Over the last few days, Tom Hicks and the organization reached out and made a very strong offer to Carlos Delgado," Texas General Manager John Hart said. "We had a great meeting with Carlos on Friday where we exceeded the limits of our initial proposal. As of this evening, however, we could not get a commitment from him, so we are withdrawing from discussions with him."

"He is a quality individual, but we want to continue to be committed with our young players and development plan. We have a first baseman in Mark Teixeira and other young players that we do not want to disrupt with potential position changes. Tom Hicks is not, and was not, afraid to spend money to add players like Carlos to our club."

Hicks implied that the Rangers didn't want Delgado to use their offer as a springboard.

Franco, a 44-year-old left-hander, spent his first six seasons with the Cincinnati Reds and the last 15 with his hometown Mets.

The four-time All-Star who is second to Lee Smith in career saves with 424, Franco was 2-7 with a 5.28 ERA last year.

"Change is good sometimes," he said. "I've been here for 15 years. It's not going to kill me to be there for 81 days."

Sanchez, 37, also was with the Yankees in the final weeks of the 1997 season and hitting .312 with one homer and 15 RBIs in 38 games.

He batted .246 with two homers and 26 RBIs for Tampa Bay last season.

AP Sports Writer Stephen Harkin in Dallas contributed to this report.

# Indians, Westbrook avoid arbitration, agree to deal

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Jake Westbrook, nearly an afterthought before emerging as Cleveland's most consistent starter last season, agreed to a two-year contract with the Indians on Monday and avoided salary arbitration.

Westbrook, who made \$1 million in 2004, asked for \$3.7 million in arbitration and was offered \$2.5 million by the club. His agreement with the Indians includes a team option for 2007.

C.C. Sabathia struggled and youngsters Cliff Lee and Jason Davis earned ERA over 5.00, Westbrook went 14-9 with a 3.38

ERA in 30 starts and was selected to the All-Star in his first full season in the big leagues. He also had five complete games, tying for the league lead.

Cleveland never expected that type of season from the 27-year-old Westbrook, who went to spring training trying to win a spot in the starting rotation. He began the year as the club's long shot before becoming a starter at the end of April.

With Westbrook, Sabathia, Lee and newly signed Kevin Millar, the Indians have assembled a starting nucleus capable of keeping them in contention for a playoff berth.



Austria's Hermann Maier, left, is congratulated by second-place finisher Daron Rahivles from the United States after winning the men's World Cup super-G race in Kitzbuehel, Austria, on Monday.

# Maier edges Rahivles in super-G

BY ERICA BULMAN  
The Associated Press

KITZBUHEL, Austria — Hermann Maier of Austria won a super giant slalom Monday for his first World Cup victory this season, and Daron Rahivles of the United States was a close second despite a bruising, somersaulting spill two weeks ago.

World Cup overall leader Bode Miller shared fifth place.

Austria's Benjamin Raich, Miller's main challenger for the overall crown, was seventh. With a victory, Maier replaced Miller atop the super-G standings.

"I just skied badly," Miller said. "It was horrible execution."

Maier won by 0.02 seconds, racing down the Streifalm course in 1 minute, 22.39 seconds and averaging a loss to Rahivles. The American had won by 0.03 seconds a year ago to hand Maier his first super-G defeat on the famed slope.

"It's always great to win here on the Austrian mountain," said Maier, who skied in a circle after his race and pointed his right index finger to signal he was No. 1 again. "I knew Daron was one of the favorites. Coming back after two weeks off after he hurt himself, I knew he would be very motivated."

Austria's Fritz Strobl was third in 1:22.93, and Switzerland's Didier Defago was fourth in 1:23.02. Miller and Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal followed in 1:23.06.

"It's frustrating to ski so badly and finish so close," Miller said. "I put down 15 seconds of good skiing in a minute-and-20-second-long super-G and still finished fifth. You've got to be happy with that."

Rahivles has 10 World Cup victories and finished fifth in last year's overall standings. He landed on his back in a crash in Aedobben and was unsure whether to race.

Maier has four super-G wins at the venue, including a stunning comeback victory just five races after returning from a motorcycle

## Sports briefs

accident in which he nearly lost his leg. He also won the downhill on the slope in 2001. He skipped the Lauberhorn downhill in Wengen, Switzerland, last week.

Miller, watching Raich slowly chip at his overall lead, earned nine points more than the Austrian on Monday. Miller is first with 1,093 points, 175 ahead of Raich. Maier, the defending overall champion, climbed to third with 730.

## One-third of World Cup tickets will be available to public

FRANKFURT, Germany — Only about one-third of the seats for the 2006 World Cup will be available to the public.

The seating capacity for the 64 games is 3.37 million, but about 440,000 tickets are reserved for honorary guests and media.

Organizers said Monday about 2.93 million tickets would be available for sale. But this would be reduced by the needs of sponsors, 205 soccer federations that are members of soccer's world governing body and others.

The actual number of tickets available to the public will be limited to about 1.1 million.

The first phase of sales, which begins Feb. 1 and mostly online, will offer 812,000 tickets. Each person will be able to order a maximum of 28 tickets — up to four for seven games.

The first phase ends March 31. Tickets will be distributed through a lottery system. More selling phases will follow — Dec. 1, 2005 to Jan. 15, 2006, Feb. 1, 2006 to April 15, 2006 and May 1, 2006 to July 9, 2006.

Tickets range from \$46 to \$784.

On the Net: FIFA's [www.fifaworldcup.com](http://www.fifaworldcup.com)

## Salzburg is Austria's candidate for 2014 Winter Games

SALZBURG, Austria — Salzburg was chosen over Innsbruck on Monday as Austria's candidate for the 2014 Winter Olympics.

After failing in a bid for the 2010 Games, Salzburg was picked for a second time by Austria's national Olympic committee.

Salzburg was a finalist for the 2010 Olympics, but finished a distant third — behind the winner, Vancouver, British Columbia, and Pyeongchang, South Korea.

South Korea has announced that Pyeongchang will try again for 2014, while Sweden plans to enter a joint bid with Oestersund and Are. Sofia, Bulgaria, and Munich, Germany, are other possible bidders.

The deadline to submit bids is July 28, 2005. The International Olympic Committee will select the finalists in June 2006 and choose the host city in July 2007.

## Lennox Lewis denies reports of comeback

LONDON — Former world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis denied a published report that said he'll end his retirement to fight Vitali Klitschko in November.

The London tabloid the Sunday Mirror quoted Lewis as saying, "I'm making a comeback later this year."

But later Sunday, Lewis released a statement saying he was not making a comeback.

"I want to reiterate what I said when I retired in February 2004 that I was fortunate to leave the sport on my own terms and that I will be one of the few heavyweight champions in history to retire on top and stay retired," he said.

Lewis, 39, retired Feb. 6 with a 41-2-1 record. Klitschko assumed the title April 24 when he beat Corrie Sanders.

Lewis and Klitschko last fought in June 2003. Lewis was behind on points when the fight was stopped in the sixth round because Klitschko was cut.

That was Lewis' last fight and he was booed out of the ring after a poor performance. The WBC mandated a rematch, but Lewis retired instead.





# Brady leads Pats to third AFC title in four seasons

BY ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The New England Patriots turned Big Ben into Gena Ben, and transformed the NFL's best-record team into another overwhelmed opponent that couldn't match the big plays they made, the intensity they brought or the leadership they possessed.

The Pittsburgh Steelers and their 15-game winning streak weren't nearly good enough to beat the Patriots with the AFC championship on the line, not even in the stadium where New England was overwhelmed 2½ months before.

The Patriots' 41-27 rout Sunday sent them to their third Super Bowl in four seasons — this time, against the Philadelphia Eagles on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville — and was just another in an ever-growing series of playoff performances that could soon stamp them as one of the best teams ever.

Tom Brady was too precise, too determined, and too experienced for Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to match.

Roethlisberger tried getting away with the same mistakes he made in a great-escape overtime win over the New York Jets the week before but didn't come close.

Not against this team, this quarterback, this coach, not even during this improbable Steelers season that saw them end the Patriots' record 21-game streak 44-20 on Oct. 31. That performance has driven New England ever since.

It certainly motivated coach Bill Belichick, who blistered his team after what he felt was a poor practice last Wednesday.

## Patriots 41, Steelers 27

New England 34 14 10-27  
Pittsburgh 14 13 10-27

**First Quarter**  
NF — FG Vianini 48, 11:20.  
NF — Brady 10 pass from Brady (Vianini kick), 6:40.  
P — FG Reed 10, 1:22.

**Second Quarter**  
NF — Gwynne 10 run from Brady (Vianini kick), 7:56.  
NF — Brady 10 pass from Brady (Vianini kick), 2:14.

**Third Quarter**  
P — Bettis 5 run (Reed kick), 10:54.  
NF — Dillon 25 run (Vianini kick), 7:27.  
P — Ward 30 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick), 2:55.

**Fourth Quarter**  
P — FG Reed 20, 11:29.  
NF — FG Vianini 31, 8:03.  
NF — Brady 13 run (Vianini kick), 2:23.

P — Burress 7 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick), 5:52.  
A — 0-0-0-0.

	STEELERS	PATRIOTS
First downs	19	27
Total Net Yards	32	37
Run-Yards	106	252
Passing	196	114
Punt Returns	1	14
Kickoff Returns	5	107
Interceptions Ret.	14-21-0	14-24-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-11	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	4-6-3	3-4-0
Punt-Yards	1	250
Penalties-Yards	12	250
Time of Possession	28:21	31:39

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
Rushing—New England: Brady 24-71, Branch 2-37, Faulk 3-20, Brady 2-20.  
Steelers: Roethlisberger 17-147, Roethlisberger 5-45, Haynes 5-28.

Passing—New England: Brady 24-326, Brady 24-326.  
Steelers: Roethlisberger 17-147, Roethlisberger 5-45, Haynes 5-28.

Punting—New England: Brady 2-20, Brady 2-20, Brady 2-20.  
Steelers: Roethlisberger 17-147, Roethlisberger 5-45, Haynes 5-28.

Blocked field goals—None.

"He let us know it," Brady said. "You would have thought we were 0-and-16 the way he spoke to us. It gets everyone in the right frame of mind. He's got great perspective and is a tremendous coach."

Belichick's 9-1 playoff record ties Vince Lombardi as the best in NFL playoff history and validates his quarterback's praise.

Brady's 8-0 postseason record

is even better, and he showed why he might soon be the generation's Bradshaw or Montana.

While Roethlisberger threw three interceptions, Brady tossed two scoring passes and no interceptions during a nearly flawless night.

One week it's Peyton Manning, the next it's Big Ben. No matter the opposing quarterback, or the challenge, Brady always seems to have an answer.

"He is a great leader. He is everything that defines what a leader is," offensive lineman Matt Light said of Brady. "He motivates this team and he motivates everybody."

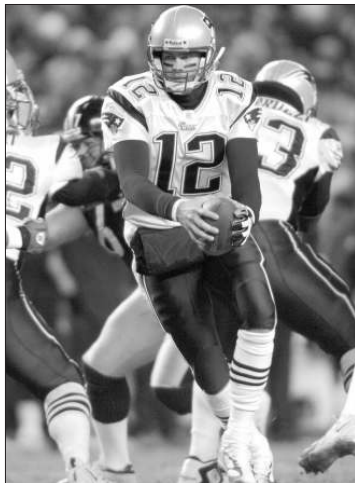
The Steelers came out as cold as the 11-degree weather by turning the ball over on a Roethlisberger-thrown interception and Jerome Bettis' fumble on their first two possessions. Predictably, the Patriots surged to a 10-0 lead on Brady's 60-yard scoring pass to Deion Branch and Adam Vianini's 48-yard field goal, which tied as the longest at Heinz Field.

Branch later set up Brady's 9-yard TD pass to David Gibson with a 45-yard catch, and he also had a 23-yard TD run. Roethlisberger also was intercepted for a touchdown on a second consecutive game, by Rodney Harrison for 87 yards to make it 24-3 late in the first half.

Sound familiar? During the Halloween game, the Steelers forced several turnovers, surged into a 24-3 lead and kept the Patriots from running the ball by building an 11-0 lead in the second half.

"We demand a lot from our players," Belichick said. "I'm happy they have this kind of achievement to show for it."

All the Steelers have to show for the greatest regular season (15-1)



KRT

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady looks to hand off the ball in the first quarter of the AFC championship game against the Steelers on Sunday.

in the franchise's 73-season history is their fourth loss in five AFC title games under coach Bill Cowher since the 1994 season.

It also was the second AFC championship game loss to New England at home in four seasons.

This probably hurt the worst of all because their season had been so magical, from Roethlisberger's unexpected emergence to Bettis' remarkable comeback season to their consecutive midseason victories over the previously unbeaten Patriots and Eagles.

Now, those teams will play for the Super Bowl trophy that has eluded the Steelers since they

won the last of their four NFL titles in six seasons from 1974-79.

The Steelers had a chance to cut it to 31-24 early in the fourth quarter after driving to a first down at the 5, only to be turned aside on three consecutive plays. Then, Cowher effectively halted their momentum by going for Pittsburgh's 20-yard field goal rather than the touchdown, and Jeff Brumm was never in it again.

"I don't think that the decision was by any stretch of the imagination," said Bettis, who ran for 64 yards while being held below 100 yards for the first time in eight starts. "We just couldn't do anything after that."

# Time finally runs for Big Ben, Pittsburgh

**PITTSBURGH** — The best story of the NFL season, the one about the kid who was going to take his team where no one else could, ended on a night every bit as cruel as it was cold. And man, was it ever cold.

With the temperature at 11 degrees for kicking and ice flurries jangling the Ohio River alongside Heinz Field, Ben Roethlisberger threw an interception on his first pass and never quite regained his footing, slipping, sliding and stumbling in his worst performance in the biggest game of his Steelers' remarkable season.

That was no surprise. The man who gressed the skids has been making fools of quarterbacks for longer than Roethlisberger has been on the planet. Sometime genius and full-time Patriots coach Bill Belichick was already a half-dozen years into his career and drawing up defensive schemes for his fourth team by the time Big Ben was born.

"I don't know if there was a better quarterback back there, whether he makes the plays or not. But you saw what they did to Peyton Manning last week," Roethlisberger said, "and what they did to a rookie this one."

## Jim Litke

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The kid showed up Sunday already at a crossroad, rare for someone whose tenure in the league was measured in months. But such was the fever that took hold in Pittsburgh after the second game of the season, took over the controls of the offense and took off on an unbeaten run that would stretch to 14 games. There were jokes about renaming the town "Roethlisburgh." The locals consumed pound after pound of beef jerky and burgers named after him, and made his No. 7 jersey the league's best-seller.

Sales never slowed, even after their perfect quarterback proved only too imperfect in a 20-17 overtime win against the Jets a week ago. Theories abounded about Roethlisberger — the cool, confident passer or the selfish rookie — and showed up as the AFC championship loomed.

The answer came from the third play from scrimmage, even before some in the

record crowd of 65,242 had finished snuggling into their seats.

Roethlisberger's first throw was high and hard, thudding off the hands of receiver Antwan Randle El, then tipped by Pats corner Asante Samuel before teammate Eugene Wilson came up with it. That led to New England's first score, a field goal.

Roethlisberger wasn't as lucky the second time he threw an interception: Pats safety Rodney Harrison stepped in front of that one and returned it 87 yards up the left sideline.

"We knew he has happy feet," Harrison said afterward. "He throws the ball up. We knew we could make some plays on him."

"A veteran quarterback who's been in the NFL, that atmosphere knows the pressure gets bigger and bigger."

The "veteran quarterback" Harrison had in mind was teammate Tom Brady, who at 27 has three years and four more seasons in the NFL, than Roethlisberger. Belichick made no such comparison, but his praise for Brady was even more revealing.

"Tom, to me, is kind of the same guy every day and every game. I don't think the magnitude of the game or the crowd noise or the situation bothers him. He's able to focus on what he has to do," Belichick said.

chick said. "There's no quarterback I would rather have."

Maybe not. But Belichick's second choice would almost certainly be a rookie like Roethlisberger. While the kid's numbers were brilliant for a first-year performer — a .98 passer rating and a 66 percent completion percentage — it's also true that the rest of the league began to make up ground as the season wore on.

Roethlisberger had a dozen excuses available: inexperience, an injured thumb, a running game that suddenly lost much of its grit and most of its punch, a game plan so unimaginative that he never had a chance. He didn't avail himself of even one.

"Not everything is fair," Roethlisberger said. "You have to realize that. Only one team is going to end the season the way they wanted to, and that is the Super Bowl champs. We will rebound. This will be a big offseason for me and this offense."

And with that, the kid turned, walked through the door and out into the bone-chilling cold, a little bruised and a lot smarter for the lesson the genius and his defense had just taught him.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

# Eagles TE Lewis out for Super Bowl; Owens uncertain

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia Eagles tight end Chad Lewis will miss the Super Bowl with a foot injury.

Lewis, who caught two touchdown passes in Philadelphia's 27-10 victory over Atlanta in the NFC championship game Sunday, will have surgery on Wednesday. He was hurt on his second TD grab, a 2-yard catch that sealed the victory.

Meanwhile, All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens' status is uncertain. Owens has been sidelined with an ankle injury since



Dec. 19. Eagles coach Andy Reid said Owens has made "great progress," and will try to run on the ankle this week.

Lewis' injury, called a Lis Franc sprain, is more common in automobile accidents and equestrian sports.

Eagles All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins missed nine games last season with a similar injury that wasn't as severe and didn't re-

quire surgery. In 2000, Eagles running back Duce Staley had surgery and missed the final 13 games, including playoffs, with an injury to the same joint.

Second-year Pro L.J. Smith will take Lewis' spot in the starting lineup against New England in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6. Mike Bartrum, also the long snapper, is the only other tight end on the roster. Reid said the team will try to add another tight end this week. Lewis backed up Bartrum as the long snapper.

Lewis, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, had 29 catches for 267 yards and three TDs in the regular season. His role had been reduced with the emergence of Smith, a second-round draft pick from Rutgers in 2003.

**ABC: Owens is second choice in towel skit — to Madden**

LOS ANGELES — ABC's first

choice for the infamous "Monday Night Football" dropped towel episode wasn't Terrell Owens — it was announcer John Madden.

For reasons that are unclear, Madden couldn't find the time to perform for the skit. Owens, the Philadelphia Eagles' receiver, filled in for him in the steamy sketch that drew viewer protests and a network apology, said ABC entertainment president Stephen McPherson on Sunday.

In the spoof that preceded the football game Nov. 15, "Desperate Housewives" actress Nicollette Sheridan persuaded Owens to skip the game by dropping the towel wrapped around her and jumping into his arms.

ABC initially thought it would be funny to have the, uh, less attractive Madden as the subject of Sheridan's aim, McPherson said.

The towel-dropping was another

er last-minute addition to the script that plainly backfired, said Marc Cherry, executive producer of "Desperate Housewives," who helped write it.

Cherry said it was all a mistake. But he and McPherson both said they were surprised at the reaction.

"I feel really bad about it," Cherry said. "I didn't want to upset people. I didn't realize that 'Monday Night Football' was such a family viewing experience. I wouldn't let my 5-year-old watch beer commercials with big-busted cheerleaders, but that's just me."

Sheridan, appearing before television writers Sunday, said the purpose was simply to amuse people.

"Taking a pop culture incident like that and having it take precedence over the underlying problems of the world was absurd," Sheridan said.

## Super: Eagles clear one hurdle only to find tougher test in Jacksonville

SUPER, FROM BACK PAGE

Owens and easily beat Minnesota and Atlanta in its two playoff games. That finally got the Eagles past the conference championship game they lost for three straight seasons and sent them on to Jacksonville, a relief perhaps more to their hypercritical and terminally insecure fans than to the players.

The Eagles are certainly worthy — getting to a championship game four straight years is an accomplishment, even if you lose the first three.

In Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia has a quarterback who has been in the running for the NFL's MVP award every year since 2000 but this one. And that was only because Peyton Manning broke Dan Marino's record for touchdown passes in a season and was nearly a unanimous choice.



In coach Andy Reid and his staff, especially coordinators Jim Johnson (defense) and Brad Childress (offense) they have a trio that compares favorably with Belichick and his two chief lieutenants: Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weis.

So they have some reason to be optimistic.

But the Patriots demonstrated in beating a Pittsburgh team that had won 15 straight, that they are special, most notably because they are a team in the truest sense.

"Nobody cares about individual stats, just about winning, including our quarterback," said Adam Vinatieri, who stays in the background until — as he has done twice — he kicks the winning field goal as time is expiring in the Super Bowl.

So while that quarterback, Tom Brady, has become a major star and Vinatieri, Richard Seymour, Corey Dillon, Teddy Bruschi, Rodney Harrison and Willie McGinest are lesser luminaries, there is always someone with little name recognition making a big play. Brady and Harrison made them Sunday. Harrison's an 87-yard interception return in the second quarter that gave New England a 24-3 lead at intermission.

But there were others, too, like Deion Branch, who caught a 60-yard touchdown pass and ran 23 yards for another score. And Jarvis Green, who filled in so well that no one noticed that Seymour, a Pro Bowler in three of his four

seasons, was out again with a knee injury; and Roosevelt Colvin, a major free-agent acquisition released to spot day after missing most of last season with a hip injury; and Eugene Wilson, a second-year safety who had two interceptions.

The Patriots coaches, in fact, are bigger names than the players: Belichick tied Vince Lombardi on Sunday for the best winning percentage in playoff history (900); Weis has already been named the best coach at Notre Dame; and Crennel will almost surely be hired as Cleveland's head coach after the Super Bowl.

Wilson suggested after Sunday's win that maybe some of his teammates should get more individual recognition.

"I think we've got a lot of players that are overlooked because people think of us as such a team," he said, naming Harrison, Bruschi and Brady.

That's borne out by the Pro Bowl selections: Philadelphia has nine, led by McNabb and Owens. New England has four: Brady, Seymour, Vinatieri and special teamer Larry Izzo.

But the betting public clearly thinks otherwise.

In fact, the line probably wouldn't be much different if Owens were healthy. The Eagles' star receiver strutted on the sideline and postured for the television cameras during Sunday's game, and Reid said afterward that he could be ready for the Super Bowl.

Belichick? He actually acknowledged that his team had played well, nothing he deserves.

"There's a lot of blood and sweat that's put out there and I'm happy that they have this kind of achievement to show for it," he said. "I've never been around a harder working bunch. They're a special group of guys."

They'll probably be even more special in a couple of weeks.

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## SPORTS



Wild weekend ends  
with Woods victory  
in Buick Invitational, Page 27

# Will it be Eagles' time ... ... or a team for all-time?

## Philly seeks first Super Bowl title; Pats playing for third in four years

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

The Super Bowl matchup is as it should be: the best team in the AFC against the best team in the NFC. The problem for the Philadelphia Eagles is that the AFC club looks like it might be a team for the ages.

That, of course, would be the New England Patriots, who have won two of the past three NFL championships and are favored over the Eagles by 7 points, a spread that is likely to go up. Three hours after New England took apart Ben Roethlisberger and Pittsburgh 41-24 Sunday evening, enough money had come in on the Patriots that the line jumped a half point.

That is as it should be as the attention of the sporting world turns to Jacksonville for the game on Feb. 6.

Officials in north Florida already are on high security alert, rerouting traffic, beefing up Coast Guard patrols, even inspecting manholes at they prepare for the attention the Patriots and Eagles will receive.

Especially the Patriots, who are trying for their third Super Bowl victory in four years — a feat accomplished only by Dallas from 1992-95.

"Dynasty" probably isn't the right word for what they might accomplish — four years is a short dynasty.

But after Sunday's game, more than a few people were comparing Bill Belichick's Patriots to the Joe Montana/Steve Young/Jerry Rice/Ronnie Lott San Francisco teams that won five Super Bowls between 1981 and 1994. The 49ers might have had a few more had the NFC not been loaded with almost equally good Redskins, Giants, Bears and Cowboys teams during that period.

This is not to slight the Eagles, by far the best team in the NFC in a season in which that conference was as down as any has been in a long time.

They were 13-1 and dominating when Terrell Owens went out with a knee injury on Dec. 19. Philadelphia rested regulars and lost two games, but came back without



Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Jeremiah Trotter celebrates after stopping Atlanta Falcons running back Warrick Dunn for a 3-yard loss in the second quarter of the NFC championship game on Sunday. The Eagles defeated the Falcons 27-10.



New England Patriots RB Corey Dillon breaks away from Pittsburgh Steelers Chris Hope, left, and Troy Polamalu for a 25-yard TD during the third quarter of the AFC championship game.



Patriots' Eugene Wilson (26) and Teddy Bruschi celebrate after Wilson intercepted Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger's first pass of the AFC title game. The Pats had three interceptions in the game.

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**Patriots make  
Roethlisberger  
look like  
rookie QB,  
end Steelers'  
15-game  
winning streak**

Page 30



**After three  
consecutive  
misses,  
Eagles get over  
NFC hurdle  
with victory  
over Falcons**

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## V. Williams' Grand Slam drought continues in Australian Open Page 26